

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER

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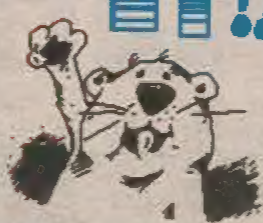
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WEEKLY

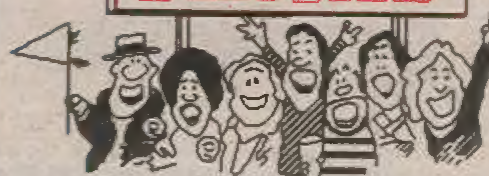
**We're
Number
One!!**



**GO-
PHER
IT!!**



**GO
TEAM!**



**Carl Veart
Aussie
bomber!**



BY TOM ANDERSON

YOUNG OLYROO Carl Veart will be given the important striking role in the Socceroos' World Cup clash against the Solomon Islands on Friday. Malaysian based striker Alistair Edwards will be used as the target man with Veart running off him in the hunt for goals. And there seems little doubt that Veart will justify coach Thomson's great faith in him. Veart looked every inch a champion in the Olympic Games football series in Barcelona and he's definitely a striker of the highest calibre. The playing arena in the Solomon Islands is certain to be bumpy and this will make goals hard to come by. However, coach Thomson intends to put the Pacific Islanders under so much pressure that the desired goals will come!

WALK OUT!

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Coca-Cola Soccer League faces a mass walk-out of Melbourne-based clubs following a decision to allow leading Sydney club Marconi to retain its name in next season's competition.

Officials of South Melbourne, Melbourne Croatia, Preston and Heidelberg are scheduled to meet this week to discuss pulling out of the national competition in protest against the ASF Commission stance on the 'Ethnic Name' issue.

The name of Marconi was deemed acceptable by the Commission's after a heated meeting with NSL club heads last Thursday night.

Melbourne club chiefs - already disappointed with the decision -

apparently left that meeting furious, after comments were passed to the effect that if the likes of South Melbourne were not happy 'maybe replacement clubs should be found'.

"I can tell you that those comments didn't go down too well", disclosed South Melbourne President George Vasilopoulos, who has already been criticised by Melbourne's Greek press for allowing the traditional 'Hellas' tag to be dropped.

Tight-lipped officials from all the Melbourne-based clubs have confided that the threatened NSL pull-out is a serious consideration.

"Believe me, we mean business on this names issue," a Preston official said.

Vasilopoulos admitted a

Melbourne-based 'Super League' could be one option for the disgruntled Victorian clubs.

Thursday night's decision by the Commissioners has jeopardised the name-change plans of all the Melbourne clubs.

Melbourne Croatia was to hold an extraordinary general meeting on Sunday to vote on the adoption of 'The Knights' as the official club nickname.

All four Melbourne-based CSSL clubs were expected to meet for crisis committee talks this week with a view to a further combined meeting to discuss what action will be taken.

"With Marconi allowed to keep its name, South Melbourne cannot accept the changes," a disappointed Vasilopoulos concluded.

Inside... the latest from around the world

What ABSW says...

Good luck!

THIS week the Socceroos take their first step along the long and hazardous road to the World Cup Finals.

A road, we hope and pray, which will take national coach Eddie Thomson and the Socceroos to the big one in the USA in 1994.

Our hopes and best wishes will be with Big Eddie and his team every inch of the way.

For, when the World Cup comes along, it's a situation of national importance.

Ranks must be closed and it must be a united effort all the way.

The World Cup Final series is 'The Magical Event' of world sport.

Four glorious weeks of thorough and absolute pleasure for all football fans.

The coming sortie in the US will be the 15th World Cup series.

Australia, of course, has qualified for one final series - 1974 in West Germany.

Following fine displays in the 1991 World Youth Championships in Portugal and in the recent Olympic Games in Barcelona, our younger teams won popular acclaim for their prowess.

Now the time has arrived for the Socceroos to take centre stage.

And, because of the success of the Young Socceroos

and the Olyroos, the flagship of Australian soccer will go into the World Cup arena with a heavy commitment resting squarely on their shoulders.

But this outfit has the ability to throw off the shackles and make USA '94.

Especially if they realise that genius is one per cent inspiration and ninety-nine per cent perspiration.

To Eddie Thomson and his boys we say Good Fortune and remember, we are not at war with our World Cup opponents - only armed conflict!

- THE EDITOR

OUT TO WIN BACK RESPECT

BY LOU GAUTIER

FRIDAY's World Cup qualifying opener against the Solomon Islands is a step in the unknown for the Socceroos.

Coach Eddie Thomson admits he has very little knowledge about the Pacific islanders who started their campaign with a 1-1 draw with Tahiti.

For that match, in their capital city Honiara, a half-holiday was declared and 10,500 people turned up - almost 10 per cent of the country's entire population!

Made famous by the World War II battle of Guadalcanal, let's hope the Solomon Islands are not a minefield for the Socceroos.

You just have to cast your minds back to 1988 to remember what can happen at this level in the World Cup.

Fresh from victories over Yugoslavia and Nigeria at the Seoul Olympics, the Socceroos

travelled to Fiji where their egos were promptly deflated by a 1-0 local win.

That defeat remains the biggest blot on Australia's recent soccer record, together with the 1981 World Cup elimination by New Zealand in Sydney.

The fact that Australia avenged that loss with a 5-1 win in Newcastle a fortnight later did not sweeten the pill.

The Socceroos must treat the Solomon Islands this week - and Tahiti seven days later - with the respect every national team commands these days.

The days of mammoth scores against so-called weaker opponents are over - forever.

The Socceroos must finish on top of their Group 1 to qualify for the Oceania final play-off against New Zealand, who only need one more point to wrap-up Group 2.

Eddie Thomson has chosen to go into his South Pacific

elimination matches with a scarcity of true strikers, having only picked Greg Brown and Alistair Edwards in that department.

The Socceroos fell down badly in attack in the recent ill-fated Indonesian Independence Cup where they failed to reach the final after their first loss ever to Malaysia's 'A' side, and to South Korea's youth team.

The ASF defended their decision to take part in that tournament - against inferior opposition - on the grounds that it would serve as an ideal build-up for the Oceania World Cup qualifiers.

I only hope this is the case and that the lessons of Jakarta have been digested.

After the Indonesian fiasco - which undid a lot of the goodwill engendered by the Olyroos in Barcelona - only clear-cut wins against the Solomon Islands and Tahiti will win back the respect of the fans.



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AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH

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Arnie nets



GRAHAM ARNOLD

GRAHAM Arnold scored his first Belgian goal in FC Liege's 2-2 draw with Cercle at Brugge.

Arnold netted in the 78th minute to give Liege a 2-1 lead, but in the 90th minute Ivo Karacic scored the second of his goals to force a draw.

Arnie also scored in Liege's next match - a 4-0 hammering of Waregem, Aurelio Vidmar's team.

Arnold is now settled in nicely at Liege and Socceroo coach Eddie Thomson must keep him on his World Cup short list.

Two other European-based players in Thomson's plans - Frank Farina and Robbie Slater - have had mixed fortunes in France.

Farina has been out with an injured ankle and missed Strasbourg's last three matches while Slater was not in Lens' line-up when they drew 1-1 at Nimes.

Slater did not get a high match rating from "France Football" in the season opener when Lens lost 3-0 to Auxerre at home.

He only collected two points from a possible six.

- LOU GAUTIER

Danes



EDDIE THOMSON AND PAUL WADE

DENMARK will provide useful opposition for the Socceroos, even if most of their top players are unavailable, should the ASF manage to lure them to Australia in January.

The ASF is hoping to organise a four-team tournament which would also include the national teams of South Korea and Japan.

Denmark should be as strong as Sweden, the team the Socceroos beat twice and drew once with earlier this year.

As European champions - and even without the Schmeichels, Laudrup, Povisens, Sivebaks and Nielsens - they would be easier to promote than their fellow Scandinavians.

Anyhow, let's not forget that Australia, too, will be minus almost a full national team, what with even more of our top players now operating in Europe.

South Korea and Japan would be excellent sparring partners for the Socceroos as well.

Japanese football is on the up and up, enjoying its best era since Japan clinched the bronze medal at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico.

Their national team has just drawn twice with Juventus of Turin - 2-2 and 1-1 in Tokyo - and the Koreans remain the most consistent performers in Asian football.

- LOU GAUTIER

THE WOLVES ARE BAYING!



BY TOM ANDERSON

SOCCEROO World Cup squad goalkeeper Tony Franken could link up with Wollongong City for the coming NSL campaign.

With his present club Apia thrown out of the NSL, the highly talented Franken is on the lookout for a new home and the Wolves are ready to pounce.

Last season, John Filan was the Wolves custodian - on loan from St George.

But there is now doubt over Filan's future and he could be headed to the UK, if his agent Frank McLintock

can find him a club.

And not being one to let the grass grow beneath his feet, ace Wolves coach David Ratcliffe has earmarked Franken to fill the gap between the woodwork.

As usual, Ratcliffe is on the ball.

After a marvellous feat in making the top five last season, the coach is determined to repeat the act in the coming campaign.

And this spells trouble for all the other clubs in the competition.

Under the uncompromising Ratcliffe, this Wollongong outfit is hard to toss.

They could be described as a thin red line tipped with steel!

It's also true to state that nobody beats a David Ratcliffe coached team - they only score more goals!

With his outfit now in full pre-season training, Big Dave talked about the

coming season.

And this alone is a great feat for ABSW, as here is a man who firmly believes that well timed silence has more eloquence than speech!

"We did well last season but we must not rest on our laurels," he said.

"In fact we must aim to go a step better.

"From our squad of last season, we have lost Tony Pezzano, and probably John Filan and Pat Brodnik.

"And in their places we hope to sign Tony Franken, two leading New Zealand players and two budding stars from the AIS.

"As we are operating on a limited budget, we have to be very selective in our signings as we have no money to waste."

Wolves did however receive a setback midway through the off-season, when defender David Skeen broke his ankle playing for a local team.

However the injury is on

the mend and coach Ratcliffe hopes Skeen will return to duty a few weeks into the season.

Star midfielder Alex Bundalo is back in training after his leg break of last season and doing 'quite nicely'.

With experienced campaigners such as Charlie Yankos and Michael O'Shea in defence and brilliant youngster Matt Horsley in midfield, Wolves again look the goods.

And, if they can get someone to put away the chances up front they definitely will be in top-five business.

And when this success comes his way, coach Ratcliffe will as usual take it in his stride and no doubt, once again don a stern expression.

For here's one tough cookie who is adamant, that when it comes to football, happiness is no laughing matter!



David Ratcliffe

Happy days are here again at Edensor Rd!



MICK HICKMAN



BY TOM ANDERSON

FORMER Socceroo skipper John Kosmina has been appointed assistant coach to Mick Hickman at Sydney Croatia.

Kossie has already taken up his duties at Edensor Park and is relishing the duties as Hickie's second in command.

The picture out at Edensor Park these days, is like a scene out of 'New Faces', with newcomers by the barrow load.

Among the new faces 'on parade' are Sydney Olympic's Robbie Ironside, David Barrett and Eric Hrstodoulou and Marconi's Jean Paul De Marigny, Mark Jones and David Lowe.

However, negotiations and transfer proceedings for the majority of this 'new gang' have

yet to be finalised.

In a bid to raise money for the transfers, Robert Runje, Mike Grbevski and a number of others are likely to leave the Croatia fold.

Former Sydney Olympic coach Hickman, who was appointed to the Croatia job during the close season, is determined to make every post a winning post.

And when it comes to determination and effort, ace mentor Hickman takes a back seat to nobody!

At the present time, he has his squad training four and five times a week and they are already jumping out of their skins.

Hickie, a popular Englishman loves his cup of tea.

And while there's tea there's hope!

He is determined to bring the glory days back to Croatia and shake them out of their lethargy in double quick time with some shock treatment.

And why not, for I mean to say, in Switzerland they had brotherly love, five hundred years of democracy and peace, and what did they produce? - the cuckoo clock!

Hickie hasn't five hundred years

to produce the goods - he hasn't even 500 days!

But he'll get there if anyone can.

"When I agreed to take this job I was determined to make a real go of it," he told me last week.

"It's not my style to sit back and allow matters to take their course, I am a doer not a watcher and always will be.

"But things are going remarkably well and I'm confident we are set for a fine season.

"Of course a great deal will depend on the outcome of all the transfer negotiations that are at present taking place.

"But again, they should come to fruition very soon and I'm confident we will have a new look team in the arena to start the season.

"And I can assure you we will be highly competitive and striving for honours."

When it comes to one hundred per centers in the game, Mick Hickman must be top of the list.

He's an ace coach who lives for his football.

And with this fellow at the helm, Sydney Croatia look set to regain their five star status in the coming NSL season.

Turkish delight in Under-18 Euro series



More than 110,000 spectators in Germany

FOR the first time since its foundation in 1923, the Turkish Football Association is celebrating a major success on the European footballing stage.

On July 25 in Bayreuth, Turkey carried off the European Under-18 Youth Championship to join the Federal Republic of Germany (1981), Scotland (1982), France (1983), Hungary (1984), the GDR (1986) and the former USSR (1988, 1990) as winners of this UEFA competition.

Turkey's victory was all the more notable in that it came against Portugal, which has been the most successful country in youth football in recent years.

Turkey reached the final with wins against Hungary in the quarter-final (3-0) and Norway in the semi-final (2-1). Portugal's road to the final began with a 4-0 victory over Germany in the quarter-final. The Portuguese youngsters then needed a penalty shoot-out to overcome England in the semi-final after a 1-1

draw.

The final itself was level at 1-1 after 90 minutes. Turkey's all-important winning goal came in the eighth minute of 'sudden death' extra time, introduced by UEFA for the Under-18 competition.

The final round of the European Under-18 Youth Championship in Germany was a resounding success. The opening match in Nuremberg between Germany and Portugal attracted a large crowd, and many of the other matches were played in packed stadia. A total of more than 110,000 spectators watched the final round matches - inspiring the teams to produce plenty of attacking football.

The experts agreed that the competition provided 'youth football at its best', with no less than 22 goals being scored in the four quarter-final encounters. The semi-finals had their moments of high drama, with Portugal beating England 12-11 on penalties after the two teams had drawn 1-1 in normal playing time. The Under-18

final round also saw the introduction to UEFA competitions of the new FIFA ruling banning back-passes to the goalkeeper, which came into force on July 25 1992. Happily, the young players seemed to adapt quickly to the new regulation - no indirect free-kicks were awarded during the ten matches to penalise players passing the ball back to their own goalkeeper.

The European national football associations are continuing to place great importance in youth football. The Under-18 final round participants were able to call on players who are already 'regulars' in First and Second Division teams in their respective countries.

The two finalists, Turkey and Portugal, the beaten semi-finalists England and Norway, fifth-placed Germany and the sixth-placed Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will represent Europe in the FIFA World Under-20 Championship in Australia in March 1993.



QUARTER FINALS

Portugal	4	Germany	0
Turkey	3	Hungary	0
England	6	Poland	1
CIS	4	Norway	4

(Norway won on penalties)

MATCHES TO DECIDE 5th and 6th place

Germany	3	Poland	2
Hungary	1	CIS	3

SEMI-FINALS

Portugal	1	England	1
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(Portugal won on penalties)

Norway	1	Turkey	2
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MATCH TO DECIDE 3rd place

England	1	Norway	1
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(Norway won on penalties)

FINAL

Portugal	1	Turkey	2
----------	---	--------	---

(after extra time).

LOCALS ONLY FOR KIWIS!

NEW Zealand won't be using their European-based stars like Wynton Rufer in their World Cup qualifier in Fiji on September 19.

Manager Ian Marshall said there was no need to spend money bringing players back from Europe with the All Whites almost assured of a place in the next round when it could go towards build-up games later on.

Marshall was very pleased with the build-up the All Whites got before their first World Cup games and believed it was money well spent.

The All Whites need only a draw against Fiji, who they beat 3-0 in Auckland, to go through to next round and Marshall said the Australasian-based players could do the job.

"I think we have got a squad strong enough," Marshall said.

"Most of the home-based players are playing very well.

"We have got Mal Dunford back to fitness and Darren McClellan and Vaughan Coveny are scoring."



KIWI STAR ROBBIE IRONSIDE

NEW ZEALAND WOULD ALSO HAVE DONE WELL AT GAMES

NEW Zealand national team coach Ian Marshall believes that New Zealand wouldn't have been disgraced at the Olympics.

Australia continued their emergence on the world stage finishing fourth in Barcelona and while Marshall felt his New Zealand side, who lost narrowly in two qualifiers to the Olyroos, wouldn't have done as well, they could have held their own.

"All these results do show what a fine performance it was by New Zealand in the qualifiers, but being honest I don't think we would have done as well," Marshall said.

"Whether we would have beaten the Netherlands in the play-off, because Australia only beat them on the way goals rule, is another thing."

"We did not have the squad to do as well, but I think it was more merit to our lads they

did as well as they did."

Marshall was very impressed with the Aussies when New Zealand lost to them twice last year and even predicted in a report to the NZFA that the Olyroos may win a medal.

Only a 1-0 loss to Ghana in the bronze medal play-off proved him wrong.

"Their results did not really surprise me," Marshall said.

"They are no bunnies and any countries who start to look at Oceania like that will be surprised.

"Australia and New Zealand have come a long way."

The two games were very close between the sides in the qualifiers, with Australia getting the rub of the green over the two qualifiers.

- from INSIDE SOCCER of Auckland

WORLD CUP ON TV

SBS will televise live the Australia v Tahiti game from Brisbane and the first leg, in Tahiti, will be shown on World Soccer on Sunday, September 20 - just before the live telecast of the return leg.

The second match between Australia and the Solomon Islands will also be shown on SBS, not live, but at a later date.

If Australia wins their sub-group, they will play New Zealand, who have virtually clinched the other group - against Fiji and Vanuatu - in a home-and-away series before the end of March 1993.

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Big blast off!



KIM TALIAHOROS

BY TOM ANDERSON

A real taste of things to come in the new NSL season can be sampled at the Croatian Sports Centre on Friday night when the big Sydney pre-season series blasts off.

The series involving Marconi, Sydney Croatia, Sydney Olympic and Melita Eagles will be played at three venues - The Croatian Sports Centre this Friday followed by Marconi Stadium on Sept 11 and Melita Stadium on Friday 18.

First up this Friday will be the clashes between Marconi and Melita in the early game, followed by Croatia v Olympic.

And, all eyes will be on the many newcomers in the four lineups.

But this isn't the end of it, as all four teams have new coaches at the helm to guide their destiny in the coming season.

Frank Arok will be in charge of Marconi, Rale Rasic with Melita, Mick Hickman in control of Croatia and Peter Raskopoulos in the driver's seat

Warm-up series set to be a real crowd pleaser

at Olympic.

No doubt, all this distinguished quartet will be out to make a big impression in this series.

Most probably, biggest interest will centre round Marconi's two top-class close season signings - defender Balagoja Kuleski from Yugoslav first division club Radnicki Nis and Kim Taliadoros from South Melbourne.

Kuleski has a marvellous pedigree and certainly knows what the game of football is all about.

Without any shadow of a doubt, he will be one of the big stars of the coming NSL season.

Taliadoros is also a very fine player and the change of scene from Melbourne to Fairfield will greatly benefit him.

As far as Kim is concerned, it looks just the move to win him a place in the

Socceroo squad.

Marconi meet Melita first up and it should be quite a tussle.

Eagles coach Rale Rasic has been working his charges to the limit and some of his younger players are already looking the goods.

Sydney Olympic spent last weekend in a four day training camp at Port Stephens under the watchful eye of coach Peter Raskopoulos.

They should now be well advanced in their pre-season training.

Former Olympic coach Mick Hickman is, of course now in charge of Croatia.

This is certain to add spice to the occasion.

All in all, it is an exciting program to kick the season off, and one that will be watched with great interest.

SOCCER TOURNAMENT



THIS FRIDAY NIGHT SEPT. 4TH

**CROATIAN
SPORTS CENTRE**



6:30PM

MARCONI v MELITA EAGLES

8:15PM

SYDNEY CROATIA v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

FRIDAY SEPT. 11TH

MARCONI STADIUM

6:30PM

MELITA EAGLES v SYDNEY CROATIA

8:15PM

MARCONI v SYDNEY OLYMPIC



FRIDAY SEPT. 18TH

MELITA STADIUM



6:30PM

MARCONI v SYDNEY CROATIA

8:15PM

MELITA EAGLES v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

PRIZE MONEY \$15,000

Admission charges - Adults \$8
Concession \$5 Children U/16 \$2

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 371 SAT. 5th SEPTEMBER, 1992

ASTON VILLA	CRYSTAL P.	1
BLACKBURN	NOTTINGHAM F.	2
LIVERPOOL	CHELSEA	3
NORWICH	SOUTHAMPTON	4
OLDHAM	COVENTRY	5
O.P.R.	IPSWICH	6
SHEFF. WED.	MAN. CITY	7
TOTTENHAM	EVERTON	8
WIMBLEDON	ARSENAL	9
BRISTOL R.	NEWCASTLE	10
GRIMSBY	OXFORD UTD.	11
LUTON	TRANMERE	12
MILLWALL	SWINDON	13
NOTTS C.	BARNSELY	14
PORTSMOUTH	BIRMINGHAM	15
WEST HAM	WATFORD	16
WOLVES	PETERBORO	17
BLACKPOOL	MANSFIELD	18
BOURNEMOUTH	HARTLEPOOL	19
BRIGHTON	PRESTON	20
CHESTER	BURNLEY	21
FULHAM	WEST BROM.	22
PLYMOUTH	LEYTON O.	23
READING	HULL	24
ROTHERHAM	WIGAN A.	25
STOCKPORT	EXETER	26

SAT.

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COVENTRY
CRYSTAL P.
EVERTON

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MATCH LIST

371
 MBER, 1992

AL P.	1
NGHAM F.	2
EA	3 ✓
AMPTON	4
TRY	5
H	6
ITY	7 ✓
ON	8
IL	9
STLE	10
UTD.	11 ✓
RE	12 ✓
N	13
EY	14
HAM	15
D	16
RO	17
D	18 ✓
IOL	19
	20 ✓
	21
M.	22 ✓
	23
	24 ✓
	25

**GET YOUR
 POOLS IN!**

It takes only six
 numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 370
 SAT. 29th AUGUST, 1992

ARSENAL	SHEFF. WED.	1	2-1
CHELSEA	Q.P.R	2	1-0
COVENTRY	BLACKBURN		
CRYSTAL P.			

SOCCER POOLS

THE
POOLS

THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST

WEEK 371

SAT. 5th SEPTEMBER, 1992

ASTON VILLA	CRYSTAL P.	1
BLACKBURN	NOTTINGHAM F.	2
LIVERPOOL	CHELSEA	3 ✓
NORWICH	SOUTHAMPTON	4
OLDHAM	COVENTRY	5
Q.P.R.	IPSWICH	6
SHEFF. WED.	MAN. CITY	7 ✓
TOTTENHAM	EVERTON	8
WIMBLEDON	ARSENAL	9
BRISTOL R.	NEWCASTLE	10
GRIMSBY	OXFORD UTD.	11 ✓
LUTON	TRANMERE	12
MILLWALL	SWINDON	13
NOTTS C.	BARNLEY	14
PORTSMOUTH	BIRMINGHAM	15
WEST HAM	WATFORD	16
WOLVES	PETERBORO	17
BLACKPOOL	MANSFIELD	18
BOURNEMOUTH	HARTLEPOOL	19
BRIGHTON	PRESTON	20 ✓
CHESTER	BURNLEY	21
FULHAM	WEST BROM.	22 ✓
PLYMOUTH	LEYTON O.	23
READING	HULL	24 ✓
ROTHERHAM	WIGAN A.	25
STOCKPORT	EXETER	26
STOKE	BOLTON	27 ✓
SWANSEA	PORT VALE	28
BARNET	CARLISLE	29
BURY	COLCHESTER	30
DARLINGTON	CREWE	31
LINCOLN	SCUNTHORPE	32
SCARBORO	GILLINGHAM	33 ✓
SHREWSBURY	ROCHDALE	34 ✓
TORQUAY	CARDIFF	35
WALSALL	YORK	36
WREXHAM	DONCASTER	37
ACCRINGTON	LEEK	38

RESERVE MATCHES

BARROW	BUXTON	39
BISHOP AUCK	CHORLEY	40
COLWYN BAY	NORECAMBE	41
AYLESBURY	YEADING	42
BASINGSTOKE	ST. ALBANS	43
BROMLEY	BOGNOR R.	44
DULWICH	GRAYS	45
FALKIRK	PARTICK	46
AYR	MORTON	47
CLYDEBANK	KILMARNOCK	48
COWDENBEATH	DUMBARTON	49
MEADOWBANK	ST. MIRREN	50
RAITH	HAMILTON	51
STIRLING A.	DUNFERMLINE	52
CLYDE	ARBROATH	53
FORFAR	ALLOA	54
MONTROSE	STENHOUSEMUIR	55

* H.F.S. LOANS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

† SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

GET YOUR POOLS IN!

It takes only six numbers to win.

MATCH RESULTS

WEEK 370
SAT. 29th AUGUST, 1992

ARSENAL	SHEFF. WED.	1	2-1
CHELSEA	Q.P.R.	2	1-0
COVENTRY	BLACKBURN	3	0-2
CRYSTAL P.	NORWICH	4	1-2
EVERTON	WIMBLEDON	5	0-0
LEEDS	LIVERPOOL	6	2-2
MAN. CITY	OLDHAM	7	3-3
NOTTINGHAM R.	MAN. UTD.	8	0-2
SHEFF. UTD.	ASTON VILLA	9	0-2
SOUTHAMPTON	MIDDLESBRO	10	2-1
BARNLEY	MILLWALL	11	0-0
BRENTFORD	SOUTHEND	12	2-1
BRISTOL C.	SUNDERLAND	13	0-0
CHARLTON	LUTON	14	0-0
OXFORD UTD.	WOLVES	15	0-0
PETERBORO	NOTTS C.	16	1-3
SWINDON	CAMBRIDGE U.	17	4-1
WATFORD	DERBY	18	0-0
BOLTON	READING	19	2-1
BRADFORD C.	BRIGHTON	20	1-1
BURNLEY	ROTHERHAM	21	1-1
EXETER	STOKE	22	2-2
HARTLEPOOL	HUDDERSFIELD	23	1-0
LEYTON O.	BLACKPOOL	24	1-0
MANSFIELD	FULHAM	25	2-3
PORT VALE	STOCKPORT	26	0-0
PRESTON	CHESTER	27	4-3
WEST BROM.	BOURNEMOUTH	28	2-1
WIGAN A.	SWANSEA	29	2-3
CARDIFF	HALIFAX	30	2-1
CARLISLE	LINCOLN	31	2-0
CHESTERFIELD	BURY	32	2-1
COLCHESTER	DARLINGTON	33	0-3
DONCASTER	TORQUAY	34	2-3
GILLINGHAM	BARNET	35	1-1
HEREFORD	WALSALL	36	1-3
ROCHDALE	SCARBORO	37	3-0
SCUNTHORPE	SHREWSBURY	38	1-1



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT WEEK 30/8/92 WEEK 370

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURED	NO. OF WEEKS NUMBER OCCURED
44 47 57 35 43 68 74 72 58 75	6 3 6 2 1 0 0 1 1 3
69 74 69 71 73 66 74 59 65 80	2 8 4 9 4 1 7 3 3 0
68 81 78 68 68 80 67 93 80 97	0 0 2 5 8 1 4 1 3 11
80 75 75 86 84 90 75 74	5 8 23 5 0 10 6 0

Results History is from Week 38, the start of six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 370 SAT AUGUST 29, 1992

Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order):
6, 7, 21, 22, 35, 38.
Supplementary Number 20.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal 2 Sheffield Wednesday 1
Chelsea 1 Queens Park Rangers 0
Coventry 0 Blackburn 2
Crystal Palace 1 Norwich 2
Everton 0 Wimbledon 0
Leeds 2 Liverpool 2
Manchester City 3 Oldham 3
Notts Forest 0 Manchester Utd 2
Sheffield United 0 Aston Villa 2
Southampton 2 Middlesbrough 1

DIVISION 1

Barnsley 0 Millwall 0
Brentford 2 Southend 1
Bristol City 0 Sunderland 0
Charlton 0 Luton 0
Leicester 1 Portsmouth 0
Newcastle 2 West Ham 0
Oxford 0 Wolverhampton 0
Peterborough 1 Notts County 3
Swindon 4 Cambridge United 1
Watford 0 Derby 0

DIVISION 2

Bolton 2 Reading 1
Bradford 1 Brighton 1
Burnley 1 Rotherham 1
Exeter 2 Stoke 2
Hartlepool 1 Huddersfield 0
Leyton Orient 1 Blackpool 0
Mansfield 2 Fulham 3
Port Vale 0 Stockport 0
Preston 4 Chester 3
West Bromwich 2 Bournemouth 3
Wigan 2 Swansea 3

DIVISION 3

Cardiff 2 Halifax 1
Carlisle 2 Lincoln 0
Chesterfield 2 Bury 1
Colchester 0 Darlington 3
Doncaster 2 Torquay 3
Gillingham 1 Barnet 1
Hartford 1 Walsall 3
Hemel Hempstead 1 Scarbrough 0
Scunthorpe 1 Shrewsbury 1
York 4 Wrexham 0

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Airdrieonians 1 Celtic 1
Dundee United 2 Falkirk 0
Hearts 1 Motherwell 0
Partick 6 Dundee 3
Rangers 3 Aberdeen 1
St Johnstone 1 Hibernian 1

DIVISION 1

Dumbarton 1 Raith 2
Dunfermline 1 Clydebank 3
Hamilton 1 Ayr 1
Kilmarnock 1 Meadowbank 0
Morton 1 Cowdenbeath 0
St Mirren 0 Stirling 0

DIVISION 2

Alloa 1 Clyde 5
Arbroath 2 Queen's Park 1
Brechin 2 Albion 0
East Fife 0 Forth 3
East Stirling 1 Queen of South 2
Montrose 1 Greenock 3
Stenhousemuir 1 Stranraer 2

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Wed	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
QPR	2	1	0	1	1	0	3
Blackburn	3	1	1	1	1	0	3
Coventry	4	1	1	1	1	0	3
Crystal Palace	5	1	1	1	1	0	3
Everton	6	1	1	1	1	0	3
Leeds	7	1	1	1	1	0	3
Liverpool	8	1	1	1	1	0	3
Man City	9	1	1	1	1	0	3
Oldham	10	1	1	1	1	0	3
Notts Forest	11	1	1	1	1	0	3
Sheff Utd	12	1	1	1	1	0	3
Aston Villa	13	1	1	1	1	0	3
Middlesbrough	14	1	1	1	1	0	3

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Wed	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
QPR	2	1	0	1	1	0	3
Blackburn	3	1	1	1	1	0	3
Coventry	4	1	1	1	1	0	3
Crystal Palace	5	1	1	1	1	0	3
Everton	6	1	1	1	1	0	3
Leeds	7	1	1	1	1	0	3
Liverpool	8	1	1	1	1	0	3
Man City	9	1	1	1	1	0	3
Oldham	10	1	1	1	1	0	3
Notts Forest	11	1	1	1	1	0	3
Sheff Utd	12	1	1	1	1	0	3
Aston Villa	13	1	1	1	1	0	3
Middlesbrough	14	1	1	1	1	0	3

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIV

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Dundee Utd	2	1	0	1	1	0	3
Rangers	3	1	0	1	1	0	3
Hearts	4	1	0	1	1	0	3
Partick	5	1	0	1	1	0	3
Aberdeen	6	1	0	1	1	0	3
St Johnstone	7	1	0	1	1	0	3
Hibernian	8	1	0	1	1	0	3
St Mirren	9	1	0	1	1	0	3
Greenock	10	1	0	1	1	0	3
Stirling	11	1	0	1	1	0	3
Alloa	12	1	0	1	1	0	3
Arbroath	13	1	0	1	1	0	3
Brechin	14	1	0	1	1	0	3
East Fife	15	1	0	1	1	0	3
Forth	16	1	0	1	1	0	3
Queen of S	17	1	0	1	1	0	3
Montrose	18	1	0	1	1	0	3
Stenhousemuir	19	1	0	1	1	0	3
Stranraer	20	1	0	1	1	0	3

RESULTS AND DIVIDEND HOTLINES

Phone: 00555 0787 Australia, Wide. Or, Sydney (02) 11520; Melbourne (03) 11521; Brisbane (07) 11699; Adelaide (08) 11521; Perth (09) 11520.
Results are available from 8pm. Sundays, dividends after 5pm Mondays.

For Past Results and Historical Date on the Pools, write to: T.M.S. P.O. Box 2937 DD GPO Melbourne 3001. Or phone (03)328 3345

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY



I'm an admirer!

I have long been an admirer of Futsal, the indoor variety of football. I first took a long look at Futsal when I made my first trip to Brazil back in 1984.

Some five trips later I am even more convinced than ever that Futsal is the best training for young players.

Lack of facilities makes it an obvious choice in Brazil where kids of all ages are brought up on the game.

In fact only a privileged few play on outdoor fields, many players not making their debuts on full grassed fields until their late teens.

On the beaches, in the back streets, on the thousands of basketball/volleyball/tennis courts it is Futsal and only Futsal which caters for the young players.

Brazilian coaches will tell you this is where the Brazilians develop their skills, where they develop improvisation in attack, where they develop their incredible touch with the ball

and where they develop their unbelievable protective skills on the ball.

I mention this as way of background to the forthcoming Futsal World Championship in Hong Kong where Australia will join fifteen other nations which have won their way through to the finals.

The World Championship kicks off on, Sunday November 15 with the final on Saturday, November 28.

Australia is drawn with Brazil, whom they meet in the first match, Costa Rica and a yet to be determined European nation.

The other groups are:

Group A: Argentina, Nigeria, Hong Kong and Poland.

Group B: Holland, Iran, Italy and Paraguay.

Group D: China, Spain, CIS and USA.

Brazil, Spain and Paraguay are the teams to beat with the Aussies capable of qualifying for the quarter finals along with Brazil.



OLYROO STAR MILAN BLAGOJEVIC

The development of Futsal in Australia was halted somewhat with the meaningless fight between FIFA and FIFUSA (the world Futsal body) over power and politics.

We had the ridiculous situation where players playing the indoor variety were even banned from playing outdoor.

Those stupid days are now thankfully over with both organisations working together for the benefit of the game.

It is now the opportunity for Futsal to help us produce better skilled outdoor players.

Milan Blagojevic, for me the Olyroos' best performer in the entire Olympic campaign, is a product of Futsal.

Few would argue Blagojevic is one of our most skilled players.

As such I would like to see Futsal training incorporated in every club training programme, particularly at youth level.

You can tell me any training routines, weight programmes, quality of coaches, whatever, but nothing will replace Futsal as the best training for our young players.

GADDAFI STEPS IN

Muammar Libya's national team last week in an apparent attempt to support a claim that his country will not be able to participate in the African Nations' Cup because of UN air sanctions against it.

But a list of qualifying groups and matches compiled by the African Confederation never mentioned Libya as a participant in the championship.

The official Libyan news agency JANA said the team could not travel to Morocco to play in the qualifying matches because of the air ban.

It charged that "the baseless resolution imposed by the UN Security Council which imposed tyrannical measures on the Great Jamahariya (Libya)" prevented the team from participating.

JUVENTUS WIN



ROBERTO BAGGIO

Italian first-division power Juventus of Turin downed the US National team 3-0 in the closing match of the Baretto Trophy to capture the tournament with a perfect two-victory record.

The Americans, with two defeats, no goals scored and seven allowed, finished last in the standings of the four-team competition with zero points.

Russia's national team, which defeated Fiorentina 1-0 in a game in Aosta earlier, finished second in the tournament, with a draw with Fiorentina.

BRIEFS

I will be in Colombia and Brazil during the forthcoming month, hopefully able to get some news through to ABSW readers.

In Colombia I will be taking in the final stages of the under 20 South American qualifiers.

To top three nations qualify for the World Youth Championship in Australia next March.

In Brazil I will be looking up many of my soccer friends, including the famous Flamengo Club in Rio.

● ● ●

Australian Soccer long ago lost the opportunity to be the flag-bearer in the South African issue.

Despite what you read in our mainstream media it is soccer which is by far the most popular and representative sport of South Africa.

Yet cricket and rugby union jumped in and claimed all the kudos in Australia.

I made contact with South African Football officials during the African Nations' Championship in January of this year.

Like other African nations they were keen to establish links with Australia.

Unfortunately, Australian soccer has yet to move on consolidating those links.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH TOM McKAIN



LEMMY VATSILAS

THE second stage of SA's new-look scene kicks off tonight when the Ampol Cup moves into its new timeslot.

Double headers will be played Wednesday and Sunday nights.

and if the acceptance of the new Telecom Top Five Series is anything to go by, Ampol could be in for its biggest boost since it launched the series 33 years ago in its summer January slot.

For starters, the two national league clubs, Adelaide City and West Adelaide, who join the top six clubs from the winter league season for the Ampol battle, will find the local teams much fitter and better prepared having come in off the Foundation SA League season.

The "super clubs" have been seeded, as usual, in different groups, City lining up against Beograd, Azzurri and Salisbury in Group 1.

West is in Group 2 with Croatia, Birkalla, and Modbury.

Double header games will be played each night with the final scheduled for Sunday, September 27, which means that for the first time in years the series will not clash with the national competition.

The opening round sees Birkalla take on Modbury followed by City against Beograd.

On Sunday West will take on Croatia following the clash between Azzurri and Salisbury.

Both national league teams are expected to field their full strength squads, although City

boss Zoran Matic told Olympian Carl Veart to take as long a rest as he felt he needed after the Barcelona campaign.

However, Raul Blanco, West's new mentor, is certain to parade all his top names at some stage as he finds out which local players he will keep after signing Robbie Hooker, Stan Lazeridiz, Greg Brown, Jose Iriarte and Hugo Gimenez from interstate.

Keen to get going again is City striker Steve Maxwell, who refused guest games as he felt that

last year's close-season matches robbed him of his scoring edge.

As we went to press talks were in progress with the referees as to whether the new FIFA rule regarding passbacks to the goalkeeper will be introduced.

As it is, the Ampol series doesn't have a rule which reads: "The goalkeeper from a goalkick position shall NOT be permitted to pass the ball to another player, who in turn shall pass it back to the goalkeeper. The penalty for breaking the rule is an indirect

free kick."

As was the case last year the shoot-out rule, which proved popular, will apply for ALL drawn games.

The shoot-out is based on the American version, with the "shooters" being given five seconds to either dribble or pass the ball forward from a mark 35 yards from the goal-line and try to beat the 'keeper.

The custodian is allowed to move off his line when attempting to save."

GROUP 1 GROUP 2

ADELAIDE CITY
BEOGRAD
AZZURRI
SALISBURY

WEST ADELAIDE
CROATIA
BIRKALLA
MODBURY

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2ND

7.30PM
9.00PM

BIRKALLA V MODBURY
CITY V BEOGRAD

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6TH

6.00PM
8.00PM

AZZURRI V SALISBURY
WEST V CROATIA

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH

7.00PM
9.00PM

SALISBURY U.V. BEOGRAD
W.T. BIRKALLA V
WEST ADELAIDE

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13TH

6.00PM
8.00PM

CROATIA V MODBURY
AZZURRI V CITY

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16TH

7.00PM
9.00PM

BIRKALLA V CROATIA
SALISBURY V CITY

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20TH

6.00PM
8.00PM

BEOGRAD V AZZURRI
WEST V MODBURY

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23RD

7.00PM
9.00PM

FIRST SEMI FINAL
SECOND SEMI FINAL

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 27TH

8.00PM

FINAL

Ampol Cup fans will be in for a bonus during the series which kicks off this week.

On two of the nights they will be treated to triple headers.

Adelaide City will play its traditional National League trial match against Marconi on Saturday, September, 20 as a curtainraiser to the West Adelaide-Modbury and Beograd-Azzurri Ampol games.

West is also negotiating for a trial, but moves to lure Olympic have so far failed.

Talks could take place with South Melbourne for Heidelberg.

West's match well also be part of a triple header.

★★★

Having landed the Foundation SA Player of the Year Award, Beograd's Bradley Armour has another ambition - to play in the National League.

The rugged midfielder is hoping Adelaide City or West Adelaide will ask him to trial with them during the Ampol Cup series.

"I'm happy about winning the award, but I'd be even happier if I could get a crack at the big time," said the 20-year-old son of former Croatia star Willie Armour.

Bradley took out the 1992 award by two points from Birkalla's Billy Karapetis, on

loan from West.

Armour collected five first preference votes, one second and three thirds from the referees who voted after each game on a 3-2-1 basis.

Another West player on loan, Robbie Slager who has been stopper for Croatia, finished third on the list with 16 points on a countback from Salisbury midfielder Tony Gasparetto.

Azzurri defender Damian Harley finished with 15 points while yet another West loan player, Jimmy Tsekis of Lion, collected 14.

Azzurri captain Duane Gray collected 13 along with Polonia's Paul Moss.

Next in line was Croatia's Andrew Triggs on 12, followed by Polonia's Brian Lauders, Andrew Borghetto (Beograd), Kevin McCormack (Birkalla) and Ivica Jurkovic (Croatia), all on 11.

Those on 10 points were Brian Butterworth (Para Hills), Dave Edwards (Modbury), Arron Bray (Modbury) and Steve Georgiou (Lion).

Enfield's Nathan Day, on loan from Adelaide City, collected the Second Division's Bob Telfer Medal as their Player of the Year.

★★★

BRIEFS



DAVE EDWARDS, (MODBURY)

Dumped Salisbury boss Bobb Wincer has still not decided his future.

However, there was a tip that he would be joining Sydney Olympic's coaching staff as an offside to Mick Hickman.

The pair worked together at coaching seminars in Sydney earlier in the year.

★★★

Croatia and Azzurri have come to an "arrangement" with Adelaide City over a

cut of the game in the first home match of the Coca-Cola Soccer League season.

The two State league clubs will meet in the Federation Cup final as a curtainraiser to City's match.

It is understood they will pay the pair equivalent to their average gates when they met in the league season.

★★★

Campbelltown must have fielded the oldest coverage player ever in the Telecom Youth League Top Five preliminary final against Seaford.

Bobby Tuffs, a regular reserve for the first team, took his 42-year-old legs onto the field and did a sterling job as one of the three coverage "boys" allowed to play.

Campbelltown won on penalties, then Tuffs fronted up on the bench for the senior side in the Second Division Telecom preliminary final the next day.

★★★

Another new name may move into the national league ranks via Adelaide City or West.

Brett Pullen of Olympians was outstanding as sweeper for his team when it downed Campbelltown to make the final of the Telecom Top Five Series.

A Tasmanian, he showed plenty of ball skills as well as the ability to read the game and hit hard when required.

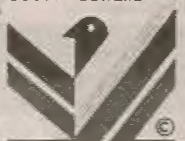
Already word is that Enfield Olympians final opponents, will lose superkid Nathan Day as he will be recalled by Adelaide City who released him on loan.

South Australia



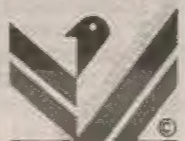
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GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES

This is no bull!



Bulleen's enviable big match record will pull the club through the 1992 Premier League finals series.

Coach Andy Bozikas is hoping his big match performers can reproduce their best as the finals series kicks into the second round this Sunday.

"There is still inconsistency in the team, and I put that down to an attitude problem", Bozikas said this week.

"I think when we've played teams in the top five the players have given everything.

"But once it comes to teams outside the top group the attitude goes out the window.

"There's no running and no pressure and I just hope the boys have learned enough from that."

Bulleen has beaten all but one (Albion) of the top eight sides in the Premier League in convincing fashion at least once this season.

"There's lots of talent and skill in this side and if we believe in ourselves there is no side we can't beat in the finals", Bozikas said.



THOMASTOWN v BULLEEN

JUVE jitters

The pressure is on Brunswick Juventus as it chases back-to-back Victorian titles for the first time since the 1950's.

But according to recently returned front man Steve Smith, Juve is steeling itself for its second round finals match this Sunday.

"Really, it's basically all one off and it's just a matter of putting it together on the day", Smith explained.

"The team that puts it together at the right time will be the one to win through", said the former Preston and Box Hill marksman.

Smith is one of a number of Juventus players easing back into the side following a testing run of injuries and suspensions for Billy Rogers' team.

"I'm just running myself into fitness and I'm looking forward to playing in the finals", he said.



JUVE IN ACTION

Gee wizz!

Impressive Premier League newcomer North Geelong has defied the odds and created history by producing the best premiership finish by any State/Premier League club in its first season in the big time after promotion from Division One.

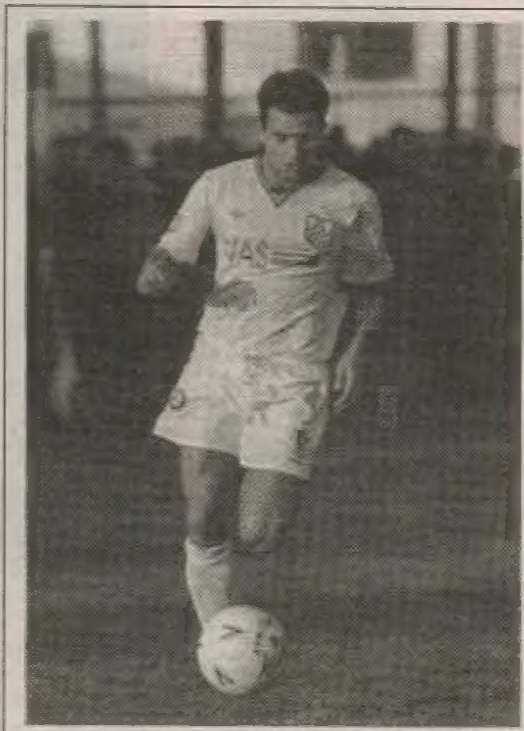
Now the West Coasters have set their sights on going one better and setting a record that can be equalled but never beaten by winning the Premier League title.

With the double chance confirmed, North Geelong looks every bit a likely grand finalist.

No rookie State/Premier League club had managed better than third in the state's elite competition at first attempt until North Geelong scaled new heights this season.

Coach Branko Culina says that despite the double-chance, his side will be taking nothing for granted during what promises to be a testing finals campaign.

"I'm very proud of the club and of the players and all I can say for sure is that we'll be giving it all we can", he said on finals eve.



GEORGE KARKALETSIS (NORTH GEELONG)

"Half the team is still under 21 and for these boys to have stepped up from First Division and do what they've done is a tremendous effort.

"I hope the people of Geelong sit up and take notice".

The best any new side has managed before North Geelong was a fighting

third place.

Two clubs hold that enviable record with Melbourne, back in 1960, the first to achieve such an impressive first-up finish.

In 1981 Doveton equalled that effort, coming from Division One in 1980 and storming into the then Premier League competition in

extraordinary style.

The Doves set a record for a newly promoted team by going for the first 15 weeks of the season undefeated before the run came to an end and the Danny McMinamee-coached side faded to finish third behind barnstorming Green Gully and Melbourne Croatia.

Only five other clubs have managed a top five finish the year following promotion since 1959, with not one club able to bridge the gap between the top of division one and the top of the Premier League for a 16-year span between 1961 and 1977.

For newly-promoted Premier League clubs, year one in the big league has proved something of a horror story over the years.

Of the 54 clubs to make the jump from Division One to the Premier League since 1959 a remarkable 34 have finished the opening year in the bottom three.

The odds were well and truly stacked against the West Coasters in this, their very first Premier League year.

That's what makes their achievements all that more impressive.

HEAR ALL THE VICTORIAN PREMIER
LEAGUE FINALS ACTION LIVE on
**1503 3AK'S SUPER
SOCCER SUNDAY**

Join ABSW's Greg Blake and all
the 3AK team as they call
the blow-by-blow action of
every game in the finals series



DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA

**HEALTHY
DIET TRY IT**

TACKLE DIABETES



DIABETES
AUSTRALIA
VICTORIA

RESULTS

BY GREG BLAKE

ALL THE VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE RESULTS FOR 1992:

	Alb	AG	Bull	BJ	CrC	Faw	GG	KC	MF	NG	Oak	StA	SGC	Thn
Alb	*	1-0	1-0	1-1	2-1	0-3	2-1	1-1	2-1	1-3	3-0	0-3	3-1	1-0
AG	1-1	*	0-0	0-2	3-0	0-1	0-1	3-2	0-1	1-1	1-1	1-0	2-1	1-1
Bull	2-3	2-1	*	1-2	0-0	2-0	1-1	2-1	3-0	4-0	1-0	2-0	3-3	0-0
BJ	2-0	2-2	1-3	*	1-0	0-2	1-4	4-0	1-1	2-2	1-0	1-1	0-0	2-0
CrC	1-4	3-2	3-4	0-0	*	1-3	0-0	2-2	3-2	1-4	2-2	0-1	2-2	2-3
Faw	0-1	1-0	0-2	0-0	2-1	*	1-0	1-1	1-1	1-0	2-1	1-3	2-2	1-3
GG	4-1	0-0	0-2	1-2	2-2	0-0	*	5-0	2-0	2-2	9-0	2-2	1-1	1-1
KC	0-2	3-2	0-0	2-2	1-2	0-2	1-3	*	1-2	0-2	2-0	5-3	0-1	2-0
MF	2-0	0-0	0-1	1-1	0-0	3-1	1-1	3-0	*	0-0	4-0	1-1	2-1	4-2
NG	2-0	4-2	0-0	2-3	3-0	2-0	2-2	1-1	1-1	*	3-0	0-0	3-1	3-0
Oak	0-5	1-2	1-3	0-2	2-0	0-1	1-5	1-0	2-5	0-2	*	0-2	1-4	3-1
StA	1-0	1-0	1-0	0-0	1-1	1-2	1-2	1-2	2-1	0-2	2-3	*	1-2	1-2
SGC	2-0	3-1	1-0	0-1	3-2	2-0	1-2	1-0	2-2	0-0	2-2	1-0	*	0-0
Thn	2-0	1-5	2-1	2-1	0-1	1-2	0-0	3-0	2-0	1-1	2-1	1-0	1-1	*

CHAMPIONS!

BY GREG BLAKE

The arguments for and against a finals series deciding the 'genuine' champion of any competition are destined to continue.

But just to give the hard-line 'traditionalists' something to think about, consider the record of Victorian Premier League 'minor premiers' North Geelong.

Sure, the West Coasters finished two points clear at the top of the ladder and can be rightly crowned the most consistent team in 1992.

But the best, surely not yet?

In the eight league games against the other top five finishing sides in the 1992 finals series the North Geelong side managed just a single win, against Fawkner in June.

Both Bulleen and Juventus took three of a possible four points against North Geelong in league games, whilst Gully managed two draws and Fawkner won an early season clash against Branko Culina's side 2-0 at Jukes Road.

In all, North Geelong managed a meagre 6 of a possible 16 league points against top-flight opposition in 1992 and that doesn't convince anyone of their right to be crowned champions.

Of course, the West Coasters can change all that in the next four weeks if they can beat those teams when it counts.

That is what the finals are all about.

North Geelong's record against the top sides in '92.

Versus	Home	Away
Bulleen	0-0	0-4
B.Juv'tus	2-3	2-2
G.Gully	2-2	2-2
Fawkner	2-0	0-1

Pld	W	D	L	F	A
8	1	4	3	10	14



SEAN LANE (JUVENTUS)

VIC CHAT

BY GREG BLAKE

IT'S a case of no regrets for Albion's once reluctant player-coach Les Carter as he reflects of season 1992.

Despite the disappointing outcome of his side's death-or-glory bid for the finals, Carter believes his players have done the club proud.

"It has been a great effort from the boys", he told ABSW.

"I was never being big-headed, but we planned to be in the top five from the time I took over.

"It's been make-or-break ever since and we basically knew we had to win every game.

"The way the boys have performed since has been magnificent and we can always look back and say we did the best we could".



SOCCER is the poorer for the loss of Tony Kovac.

Kovac, a key player behind the scenes in soccer in Victoria, passed away 10 days ago following a long illness.

Kovac was president of now defunct Footscray JUST for 18 years and sat with the Victorian Soccer Federation Board of Management for a decade.

Kovac, awarded an OAM for his services to the game, will also be remembered for his crucial roll in helping the NSL get underway in 1977.

ABSW's best wishes are with his wife Vesna and his family.



APPARENTLY some clarification is required regarding the countback system used to split the three-way tie in the ABSW Premier League Most Exciting Player Award for 1992.

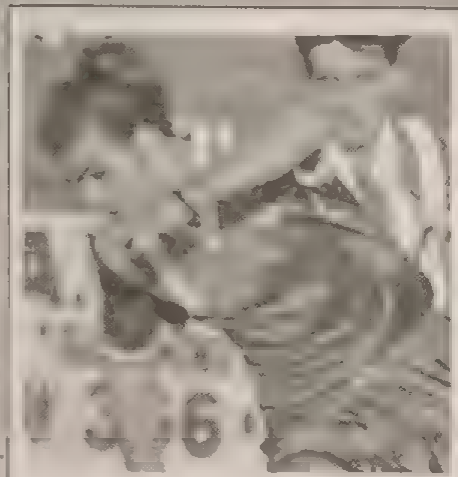
Green Gully's Sash Becvinovski took the prize despite finishing level on 12 votes with Sunshine's John Waddell and Altona Gate's Peter Nicoski.

Unlike traditional best-and-fairest awards, the ABSW countback system does not favour the most consistent players.

As the award name indicates, the ABSW award is for the league's most exciting player and Becvinovski, with four clear three-vote performances, took the prize.

In a countback situation the deciding factor is which player polled the most 3 votes over the season.

Becvinovski polled four lots of top votes, whilst Waddell's total comprised five 2 votes and two 1 votes, with Nicoski polling four 2 votes and four 1 votes.



SASHA BECINOVSKI



BULLEEN gave the VSF a public blast over its choice of venues for the 1992 finals series, claiming that higher finishing sides should have been granted some home advantage.

Fawkner (5th at the end of the home-and-away series), Juventus (3rd) and Green Gully (4th) got the nod for preliminary finals games.

But there can be few grounds for complaint by the Lions, particularly given that Bulleen grabbed a couple of lucrative early-season Premier League double-headers.

As VSF spokesman Terry Jones said: "At no stage was the VSF locked into a formula for finals venues".



AS we should have said two weeks ago, only one club outside the Melbourne metropolitan area (Morwell Falcons) has taken the Victorian title since the VSF was formed in 1958.

But for the sake of Latrobe Valley fans who rang to take us up on the issue, the Victorian title was taken from Melbourne once prior to that time, in 1951 when Yallourn pulled off the championship.



KNOX CITY, relegated on the final day of the Premier League home-and-away season, will re-apply for a place in the state's major competition.

The vacancy has come about following Morwell's elevation to CCSL ranks.

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PREMIER LEAGUE FIRST ROUND FINALS DETAILS

ELIMINATION FINAL
Fawkner 3 (Sam Emmanuelle 20th, Danny Gjinidic 37th, Steve Gojevic 62nd) - Green Gully 1 (Derek Hunter 41st) at Jukes Road, Fawkner.

QUALIFYING FINAL
Brunswick Juventus 3 (Dale White 6th, Paul Della Rocca 35th, Robbie Ferla 51st) - Bulleen 2 (Stan Thodis 41st, Con Pappas 85th) at Jukes Road, Fawkner.

THIS WEEKEND
Minor Semi Final - Bulleen v Fawkner (12.30)
Major Semi Final - North Geelong v Brunswick Juventus (3.00)
Double-header at Western Oval, Footscray.

PREMIER LEAGUE SECOND ROUND FINALS PREVIEW

BY GREG BLAKE

Brunswick Juventus is steeling itself to bring an abrupt halt to North Geelong's 'minor premiership' celebrations when the two sides clash in this Sunday's Premier League major semi final at the Western Oval in Footscray.

North Geelong coach Brank Culina has said his club was still celebrating its table-topping performance long into last week.

But on the strength of the Zebras' convincing defeat of Bulleen in last Sunday's qualifying final, Juve is primed to burst a few balloons and stomp on the party hats in gate-crashing style.

And the party might also be over for Bulleen as it faces a do-or-die knock out clash against rampaging Fawkner in the early game of the finals double-header.

The morale of the Lions will be at low tide following last Sunday's bone-shattering defeat at the hands of Juventus.

Bulleen was beaten physically and mentally at the hands of the Zebras whilst Sunday's opponent, Fawkner, appeared to be coasting as it trounced Green Gully.

It's all or nothing for the Lions on Sunday. Last year's championship runner-up went into 1992 with the tag of title favorites but old-rivals Fawkner could end the premiership dreams.

Not the the Blues are in the class of Juventus.

But, after struggling into the finals Claude Lucchesi's side showed its potential last weekend.

With a disciplined defence the Blues might have enough

to get over the line against a Bulleen side which rarely troubled Juve and scored one of its two goals with a gift from John Corvan.

Fawkner is still relying on its talented but inconsistent strike force, but if Sammy Emmanuelle, Danny Gjinidic, Carlos Retre and Co. fire up for the second week in succession it could be out of the finals in straight sets for the lazy Lions.

The Juve - North Geelong late game should be a beauty

In their last clash at this ground injury-riddled Juventus pulled itself off the canvas to grab a 2-2 draw after being two goals down.

The Zebras are unlikely to face such a task this weekend, but the match will still be tight.

As much as everybody would still like to dismiss the North Geelong threat, it is real and Juventus will have to pull out another big time effort for that lucrative prize of a grand final berth.

On the strength of last weekend Juventus, which out-gunned, out-muscled and out-played ailing Bulleen at every turn in the qualifying final, will take a power of beating.

Coach Billy Rogers admitted that that tough physical element was a key to success in the Bulleen game.

Juventus was as tough as it was clinical in its dissection of Bulleen and the West Coasters should be prepared for some bone crunching tackles in this one as well.

This could well be the grand final preview and the winner, already into the big one on September 20, will be nicely placed in the title race



STEVE JACKSON (THOMASTOWN)

Victorian Fixtures	
PREMIER LEAGUE	
Sunday, 5th September	
Final Round 2	
Finals double-header at Western Oval, Footscray	
12.30pm Minor Semi Final	
3.00pm Major Semi Final	
STATE 1	
SATURDAY, 5th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 25	
Bell Park v Frankston Pines	
SUNDAY, 6th	
SEPTEMBER	
Mordialloc v Westgate, Western Suburbs v Altona City, Wertheim City v Richmond, Springvale City v Caulfield City, Ringwood City v Doveton, Northcote City v Mooroolbark.	
STATE 2	
SATURDAY, 5th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 28	
Bendigo Greens v Sandringham City, Doncaster Rovers v Nunawading City, East Brunswick v Clifton Hill, Port Melbourne v South Caulfield, Box Hill Inter v Essendon City, Melbourne City v Waverley City, Sunbury United v Chelsea, Kew v Broadmeadows City	
STATE 3	
SATURDAY, 5th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 28	
Fitzroy City v South Dandenong, Geelong v Eltham/Ola Valley Jtd, Moorabbin City v Dandenong, Laor United v Cono-Geelong Utd, Coburg Moreland Utd bye, Fegent v Clamda, Suns Heights Porema v Brighton, Seaford United v Springvale Utd.	
STATE 4	
SATURDAY, 5th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 25	
Yarraville v Boronia, Pascoe Vale v Kangaroo Utd, South Springvale v	
Cranbourne, Rosanna v Mornington, South Wertheim v Hawthorn Citizens, Geelong Rangers v Heidelberg City, Langwarrin v North Coburg United	
PROVISIONAL 1	
SATURDAY 5th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 25	
Melton v Yallourn, Williamstown v Frankston United, Westvale v Berwick City, Springvale Condors v Brandon Park, Knox Park v Brunswick City, Ma v m City v Forest Hill, Laor v Altona East.	
PROVISIONAL 2	
SATURDAY, 5th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 25	
Hoppers Crossing v Keysborough, East Geelong v Hampton Park, Glenroy Meadow Park, East Richmond v North Sunshine, Eastern Park v Nth Glenroy, St Marks Lyndale United v Uni of Melbourne, Ballarat v Wantmna.	
PROVISIONAL 3	
No matches scheduled	
PROVISIONAL 4	
SUNDAY, 6th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 22	
Kew United v Melbourne University, Latrobe University v Oakleigh United, East Kew v Riversdale, Diggers Rest v Sunshine Park, Colingwood City v Upfield, Beaumans v Waverley Wanderers.	
PROVISIONAL 5	
SUNDAY, 6th	
SEPTEMBER ROUND 22	
Doncaster Inter v Endeavour Hills, Diamond Valley v Epping Concorde, Cam Gram. Old Boys v Northern United, Broadmeadows Utd v RMIT, Balwyn City v Thornbury Furlan Utd, Albert Park bye.	
STATE FOUR RESERVES	
St. Springvale 24 20 0 4 65 25 40 Larzelar 24 15 4 5 44 28 34 Rouette 24 13 0 5 34 36 32 Nth Cob.Utd. 23 12 7 4 54 33 31 St.Wertheim 23 13 1 9 40 28 27 Kangaroo Utd. 24 11 4 9 41 26 26 Cranbourne 24 10 5 9 46 38 25 Hawt.Citizens 23 8 5 10 41 44 21 Geelong Rang. 24 7 5 12 37 47 19	

PREMIER LEAGUE

N.Geelong	26	12	11	3	45	25	35
Bulleen	26	13	7	6	39	21	33
Bruns.U.	26	11	11	4	35	25	33
Green Gully	26	10	12	4	51	25	32
Fawkner	26	13	5	8	30	27	31
Sun.G.Cross	26	10	10	6	38	31	30
Albion	26	13	3	10	35	34	29
Morwell F..	26	10	7	38	30	28	
Thomastown	26	10	7	9	31	34	27
St.Albans	26	8	6	12	29	32	22
Altona Gate	26	6	8	12	30	34	20
Croydon C.	26	4	9	13	30	49	17
Knox City	26	5	6	15	27	49	16
Oakleigh	26	1	3	19	22	66	11

PREMIER LEAGUE RESERVES

Thorn	26	17	4	5	49	3	38
Wood Falls	26	13	1	1	4	15	
Mineruel Falls	26	12	1	1	1	34	
Brunswick City	26	14	1	1	1	33	
Croydon City	26	14	1	1	1	32	
Green Gully	26	10	0	5	41	30	30
St. Albans	26	10	1	1	1	36	
N. Geelong	26	10	1	1	1	33	
Oakleigh	26	10	1	1	1	33	
Knox City	26	10	1	1	1	34	
Spring City	26	10	1	1	1	34	
Caulfield City	26	10	1	1	1	34	
Wertheim City	26	10	1	1	1	34	
Westgate	26	10	1	1	1	34	
Bentrick City	26	10	1	1	1	34	
Spring Creek	26	10	1	1	1	34	
Warrnambool	26	10	1	1	1	34	

Mornington	24	5	3	6	3	66	1
PROVISIONAL ONE FIRSTS							
Maven's Club	24	16	2	6	52	24	34

VICTORIAN JUNIOR TABLES

UNDER 11

CENTRAL A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
EAST RICH A	12	12	0	0	64	3	26
SANDRINGHAM A	12	9	2	1	50	7	20
BEAUMARIS A	12	8	1	3	54	12	17
BRIGHTON	13	5	3	5	31	26	13
CAULFIELD	13	4	0	9	26	34	8
ALBERT PARK	12	4	0	8	17	31	8
CAULFIELD B	12	3	1	8	14	55	7
BENT GREENS A	12	0	1	11	3	90	1

NORTHERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
BRUNN UTD U11	16	10	0	6	61	9	30
THOMASTOWN	16	13	1	2	64	7	27
LALOR UTD	16	13	0	3	67	15	26
NTA RESERVOIR	16	0	3	13	46	18	31
PRESTON	16	0	5	11	26	27	19
LALOR	16	5	0	7	26	20	14
BUNDOORA	15	0	1	0	28	43	11
RECENT	16	6	2	10	17	30	10
NORTHCOTE CITY	15	0	1	14	3	72	1
KEON PARK	16	0	1	15	4	107	1

CENTRAL B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
CLAYTON	16	15	1	0	64	3	31
EAST BENTLEIGH	16	10	3	3	44	25	23
BEAUMARIS B	16	0	5	3	45	23	21
CAULFIELD UTD	15	0	2	5	42	40	18
CAULFIELD CITY	15	7	2	6	28	21	16
SANDRINGHAM B	15	7	1	8	37	35	15
CLARENDON	16	5	2	7	22	30	12
EAST RICHMOND B	16	3	3	10	18	41	9
HAMPTON	16	4	3	12	18	55	8
BENT GREENS B	16	1	1	14	0	82	3

SOUTHERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
CHELSEA	16	15	1	0	60	14	31
MORNINGTON	16	4	5	2	45	15	22
LANCASHIRE	16	4	4	5	44	27	20
HAMPTON PARK	16	7	5	4	37	28	19
DANDENONG	16	7	4	5	43	32	18
SINGLEY	15	5	2	7	33	25	14
FRANKSTON UTD	16	5	3	7	35	23	13
BATTER	16	5	1	10	28	55	11
SEAFOUR UTD	16	4	1	11	18	28	8
BERWICK CITY	16	0	1	15	0	80	1

STH-EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
WITCHAM UTD	16	15	0	1	60	4	30
SPRINGVALE CITY	16	15	0	1	63	8	29
DONK ROVERS	16	8	1	7	31	30	18
CLAYTON	16	8	2	6	45	35	16
SPRINGVALE UTD	16	7	1	8	32	37	15
PENINSULA	16	7	1	8	30	37	15
SPRINGVALE CITY	16	6	1	9	28	38	13
BOYTON	16	5	1	10	26	48	12
ROSAHNA	16	2	0	14	12	114	4
HEIDELBERG UTD	16	0	0	16	5	91	0

EASTERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
CROYDON CITY	16	10	0	6	60	0	32
ELTHAM NTH	16	12	0	4	61	13	26
BULLER	16	12	0	4	57	16	26
WINGWOOD CITY	15	10	0	5	60	30	20
MOOROOLBARK	16	9	0	7	48	30	16
SHERRIDGE	16	7	0	9	36	36	14
HEIDELBERG UTD	16	6	1	9	30	32	13
KNOX PARK UTD	16	5	1	10	40	61	11
STK SPRINGVALE	16	1	0	15	10	117	2
WERRIBEE	16	0	0	16	2	130	0

NTH-WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
ESSENDON CITY	16	16	1	0	60	4	31
SUNSHINE HILLS	16	14	0	2	75	9	28
SUN GEORGE X	16	11	1	3	71	13	23
FARNHAM	16	7	1	8	40	27	18
NTH GLENROY	16	7	1	8	47	45	15
GREEN GULLY B	16	5	3	7	52	30	13
NTH COBURG UTD	16	4	1	11	13	38	13
SUNSHINE PARK	16	3	2	11	14	53	8
WESTGATE	16	3	1	12	15	87	7
WESTERN SUBURBS	16	0	1	15	1	118	1

WESTERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
ALTONA CITY	16	14	0	2	77	12	30
WYNDHAM PARK	17	13	2	2	67	11	29
MELBOURNE CITY	17	11	4	2	46	12	26
GREEN GULLY A	16	11	2	3	60	21	24
BELL PARK	16	10	3	3	46	30	23
MELB CROATIA	17	10	1	6	46	36	21
ST ALBANS	16	0	1	15	50	37	17
ALTONA GATE	16	7	2	7	30	43	15
ST ALBANS	16	3	2	11	10	50	8
ALTONA	17	2	1	14	13	71	5
YARRAVILLE	15	2	0	13	0	57	4
ALTONA EAST	17	1	2	14	12	112	4

UNDER 12

EASTERN A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
SPRINGVALE CITY	16	14	0	2	60	11	28
LANCASHIRE	16	12	1	3	48	30	25
CLAYTON	16	11	1	4	43	24	23
STK SPRINGVALE	16	0	2	14	20	35	10
DONK ROVERS	16	0	2	14	26	38	10
BERWICK CITY	16	7	1	8	34	24	15
LYNDAL UTD	16	4	1	11	20	42	12
KNOX CITY	16	3	0	13	18	34	9
SEAFOUR UTD	16	0	0	16	0	0	0
MURAWANG CITY	16	0	1	15	0	82	3

CEN-STH A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
KARANG UTD A	16	12	2	2	61	26	26
EAST BENTLEIGH	16	0	2	14	57	20	21
CRANBURN	16	0	2	14	26	22	19
MORNINGTON	16	0	3	13	36	28	18
BRIGHTON	16	0	1	15	30	32	10
BEAUMARIS	16	7	0	9	34	20	17
SANDRINGHAM	15	7	1	7	42	20	18
HAMPTON PARK	15	2	4	10	22	38	10
ALBERT PARK	14	4	0	10	15	60	8
CLARENDON	15	1	2	12	7	60	4

EASTERN B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
HEIDELBERG UTD	16	14	2	0	63	13	28
CROYDON CITY	17	12	2	3	67	18	26
CLAYTON	16	11	1	4	36	27	25
CAULFIELD UTD	16	10	0	6	38	25	25
DOYTON	16	11	2	3	37	18	24
ELTHAM NTH	17	6	1	7	36	34	18
SPRINGVALE UTD	16	0	2	14	20	35	10
SHERRIDGE	16	0	2	14	20	35	10
MONKLE	16	0	2	14	13	65	2
WINGWOOD CITY	17	1	0	16	10	72	2
MOOROOLBARK	17	1	0	16	15	60	2

CEN-STH B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
BATTER	16	15	1	0	65	10	30
PENINSULA	16	14	2	0	65	17	29
DOYTON UTD	16	14	2	0	64	19	28
CARRUM UTD	17	0	6	5	37	19	20
BENT GREENS	16	4	0	12	30	27	16
FRANKSTON PMS	16	0	1	15	30	34	10
WATERLEY CITY	17	7	2	7	38	60	16
HAITHING	17	6	0	10	18	20	13
SPRING CONDOES	17	2	0	15	11	54	11
KARANG UTD B	16	3	0	13	12	16	8
FLINDERS	16	3	0	13	10	60	8
MOOROOLBARK	17	1	0	16	2	54	3

NORTHERN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NTH GLENROY	16	14	2	0	75	0	30
FARNHAM	16	14	0	2	67	0	30
BRUNN UTD JUV	17	12	0	5	60	0	28
LALOR	16	0	5	11	48	25	23
ESSENDON CITY	16	0	1	15	30	34	10
LALOR UTD	16	0	3	13	31	32	10
NTH RESERVOIR	16	0	3	13	30	38	10
RECENT	17	7	2	8	34	46	18
BROADMEADOWS	17	4	2	11	19	46	10
THOMASTOWN	17	2	5	10	21	40	8
PRESTON	16	1	0	15	14	81	7
MILL PARK	16	1	1	14	10	112	3

NTH-WEST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
NTH GLENROY	16	15	1	0	63	13	28
NORTHCOTE CITY	16	13	1	2	71	18	31
BELL PARK	16	12	1	3	46	18	27
ALTONA	16	11	2	3	48	20	24
STK WERRIBEE	16	10	2	4	47	21	22
WESTVALE	16	7	1	8	37	33	19
EAST GLENROY	16	7	1	8	37	33	19
WESTERN SUBURBS	16	7	1	8	37	33	19
HOPKINS CROSS	16	7	1	8	37	33	19
WESTVALE	17	3	4	10	18	38	18
PAIDOO VALE	15	1	0	14	8	79	3
MARLBOROUGH UTD	16	0	0	16	7	81	0

WESTERN A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
MELB CROATIA	16	15	0	1	60	0	30
SUNSHINE HILLS	16	13	0	3	44	15	26
ALTONA GATE	16	0	3	13	43	20	21
KEELOR	16	0	2	14	35	30	18
SUNSHINE GEORGE X	17	0	1	15	41	35	19
ST ALBANS	16	0	0	16	37	37	18
YARRAVILLE	16	7	1	8	25	35	13
GREEN GULLY	17	0	2	14	25	35	14
MELTON	16	0	0	16	17	38	12
SUNSHINE UTD	16	0	2	14	8	63	2
MELBOURNE CITY	16	0	1	15	16	60	1

UNDER 13

EASTERN A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
STK SPRINGVALE	16	12	2	2	43	12	25
BULLER	16	11	3	2	43	12	25
PENINSULA	16	11	3	2	34	25	24
MOOROOLBARK	16	6	2	8	47	24	18
DOYTON	16	7	4	5	36	18	18
HAMP PARK A	15	6	4	5	34	23	16
ELTHAM NTH	16	7	1	8	37	15	16
EAST RICHMOND	15	3	1	11	14	34	7
DON ROVERS A	16	2	2	12	10	40	8
RINGWOOD CITY	16	0	2	14	18	66	2

FAWKNER'S GREEN GULLY

BY CON STAVROS

FAWKNER'S Big Blue Wrecking Crew steamrolled an impotent Green Gully Goalscoring Machine to silence the critics and throw open the race for the inaugural Premier League Grand Final.

The Blues thumped a hapless Gully 3-1, in a cut-throat eliminator that soured what has been a fine season for Duzan Kalezic's men.

Unbeaten since May 17, Green Gully had entered this contest as hot favorites, despite the fact that the location, Jukes Road, is Fawkner's home turf.

Boasting the league's premier strike-gun, Sash Becvinovski, and goal spree partner Derek Hunter, Gully fans were expecting another blitz to silence what has been for the most part a patchy Fawkner team.

Claude Lucchesi's task had seemed insurmountable. Not only did he need to shut those two out, he needed to dominate a midfield containing a workhorse - Steve Chetcuti - and a skillmaster - Alex Gymnopoulos, plus get his indifferent attack to take their chances.

To say that was achieved would be an understatement.

Robert Tombolato combined with Tony Schipano, Milan Vlatkovic, Manny Anezakis and Lucchesi to create a defence of awesome presence.

Becvinovski as target number one, was hounded relentlessly; never given room to run let alone score, he was left to fire tame speculative drives from thirty-plus yards as his frustration increased.

In midfield, Steve Gojevic battled, while wide right, Seb Emmanuelle orchestrated the demolition that shocked the onlookers.

Within twenty minutes Fawkner, through Emmanuelle, had taken the lead.

The pacy flanker had accepted a neat cross from Vlatkovic to slam home past a stunned Eric Jannsen from eight yards.

Whilst many anticipated Gully to now awaken from their complacency, it was Fawkner who continued to mount the pressure.

Tony Ciantar, cruelly exploited by Emmanuelle's speed and guile, looked lost and if not for the good work of Peter Spiteri, Gully may have succumbed to an avalanche.

As it was, Fawkner recorded the cushioning second goal in the 37th minute as Damir Gnjudic struck the upright with an initial shot before following up himself to convert the rebound. That move, like every other in the first half for Fawkner, was a tangible product from the drawing board of Emmanuelle.

Gully's almost undeserved



SASH BECVINOVSKI (GREEN GULLY)

lifeline came just four minutes from the break. A slip by Anezakis allowed Becvinovski to cut a ball back in from the byline and Hunter arrived on time to tap home from six yards.

Rodovan Barjaktarevic's injury late in the period meant Kalezic's organizational changes at the break were predictable.

Traje Latomanski appeared off the bench with the single instruction to mark Emmanuelle, whilst Ciantar happily scurried back to the vacated sweeper's position.

Lucchesi meanwhile had shaped his charges for the expected second half onslaught with the laudable concept of "attack is the best form of defense."

Green Gully's brewing combustion never exploded into life, despite the efforts of Chetcuti and Gymnopoulos to provide the spark.

The match stopped being a contest at the 62nd minute mark when Steve Gojevic pounced on a loose ball to record Fawkner's third and rip the heart out of Gully.

Tightening their grip on midfield, Fawkner never looked like being caught, despite Latomanski's valiant attempts to contain Emmanuelle.

With the match petering out to a forgone conclusion,

Fawkner rubbed salt into the wound with a sustained period of intelligent and imaginative attack, much the opposite to what Green Gully had offered.

Emmanuelle and Gnjudic both hit the upright at the same spot, from the same angle within five seconds of each other, while Vlatkovic missed a sitter, collecting Jannsen's head accidentally in the process.

The big Green's custodian must have thought that indicative of his day as he watched helplessly as the majority of his teammates capitulated meekly to the Fawkner finesse on display.

Post-match, Kalezic was reflectively disappointed with the shattering of his teams much heralded march into the finals. Paying particular credit to Emmanuelle, Kalezic took nothing away from Fawkner, but couldn't help touching on the contentious selection of Jukes Road as a playing site.

Whilst Green Gully have the off-season to ponder what may have been, Fawkner will continue to attempt to reproduce their early season form in another eliminator, this time against Bulleen at the Western Oval on Sunday. Kick-off is 12.30 p.m.

GREEN GULLY:

Jannsen, Spiteri, Ciantar, Santalucia, Barjaktarevic (Latomanski), Chetcuti, Gymnopoulos, Becvinovski, Hunter, Belic (Campelj), Burlak. **FAWKNER:** Anastasidis, Anezakis, Tombolato, Vlatkovic, Schipano, Emmanuelle, Lucchesi, Gojevic, Gnjudic, Retre, Torteviski (Crivari). **REFEREE:** Nestor Zachariadis.

**BRUNSWICK
JUVENTUS
BULLEEN**

BY CON STAVROS

JUVENTUS bullocked and barged their way within touching distance of another title, as they held out Bulleen 3-2 in the Premier League Qualifying Final at Jukes Road last Sunday.

The bruising encounter had a plethora of goals to please the patrons, but purists would have been marginally disappointed by the scrappy nature of proceedings.

Unlike the capitulation of the favorites in the preceding Elimination

Final, Juventus reflected the sentiments of the odds makers with their victory.

Bulleen were in truth flattered by the scoreline, in a match that goalkeeper Mauro Raponi would like to forget.

Raponi, a between the posts hero all season, fluffed two and ended picking the ball from his net on both occasions.

Juve had before that struck visible terror in the eyes of the Lions with a physical commitment of ferocious tenacity.

Paul Della Rocca and Rob Ferla had stamped their presence within moments of the opening whistle and just six minutes in, the league's most respected strike pair of Dale White and Steve Smith had left their impression too.

John Corvan's precise free-kick had found Smith on the far post and the star's knock-back header allowed White to slam home unopposed.

That move appeared to signal the shockwave from which Bulleen reeled all afternoon.

Whilst Billy Rogers had made his tactic of controlled aggression the focus of the Zebra plan, counterpart Andy Bozikas had employed a strict man-on-man operation that appeared to be failing.

Tony Marsan shadowed Smith, Frank Valentic mirrored Sean Lane and most surprisingly, Michael Vesnaver tagged White.

Whilst that attention stifled some of the Juve fluency, it appeared to hamper the Lion's even more, with Vesnaver unable to make a creative contribution alongside Anthony Grbac and Scott Patterson.

Following upon the precedent established in the earlier game, the pacesetters extended their lead in the 35th minute with a goal aptly summarized as a scramble.

John Corvan, floated in another free-kick and amidst a swarm of bodies, Raponi fumbled once, parried away what was almost a Vesnaver own goal and then watched in horror as Della Rocca somehow steered the ball home.

If the script was to hold true, then Bulleen could expect a "keep hope alive" goal just before halftime. It came courtesy of some Stan Thodis magic.

Picking the ball up in midfield, the diminutive dynamo ricocheted like a pinball amongst the buffer of the Juve defenders, before extrapolating a one-two with Grbac. Recovering the ball inside the box, Thodis kept his composure to slice his

shot low and hard past Laumets.

That entire move took about fifteen seconds and the crowd of thousands collectively held their breath as it unfolded. Bulleen for a moment had cause to hope.

Robert Ferla, a tireless contributor in midfield, snared Juve's third just six minutes into the second period and extinguished the Lions' flame.

Yet another Corvan free-kick began proceedings, this time Ferla rising to head home courtesy of a Raponi fumble and a favorable post rebound.

Shifting emphasis on containment, Juventus played out the remainder of proceedings with Ferla, Lane and Michael Mazzini putting a priority on defence rather than attack.

Juventus's front-runners continued to carve out the chances however, with White being denied by a reflex Raponi leg extension in the 77th minute.

Despite the Juventus superiority, the match had its final five minutes of tension and drama as Bulleen closed the gap to just a single goal in the 85th minute.

The salutations for this effort are once again directed at Thodis.

With extraordinary perseverance, Thodis robbed Corvan of the ball and laid back a low cross to be tapped home by Kon Pappas, who had earlier come on to replace an out of sorts Darren Tuck.

The uncharacteristic error by Corvan was mercifully, given proceedings, not a fatal factor in the finish.

Bulleen, applied the pressure looking for the equalizer, but realistically, Thodis's bag of tricks was exhausted.

Billy Rogers praised him teams commitment after the fixture and sounded a warning to North Geelong with the news that Juve would continue their physical approach throughout the finals series.

Bulleen, dogged by a bridesmaid image of perennial failures, did little - Thodis aside - to dispel the critics belief that there title chase is a paper tiger.

A chance to make amends looms on Sunday for the Lions as they face Fawkner in a do or die eliminator at the Western Oval from 12.30.

Juventus will challenge North Geelong for a spot in the season finale in the Major Semi-Final which follows at 3.00 p.m.

JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, Ferla, Corvan, Della Rocca, Lane, White, Smith, Mirichiello, Mazzini, De Amicis.

BULLEEN: Raponi, Valentic, Vesnaver, Krajacic, Marsan, Grbac, Branov (Brimmer), Thodis, Tiatto, Patterson, Tuck (Pappas).

REFEREE: John Rutter.

AROUND THE NATION

Our man in Canberra GRAHAM COOKE

THE recent decision of the ACT Soccer Federation to allow the result to stand in an abandoned State League game between Condors and the University of Canberra, was another example of "not giving Condors a fair go" the club's soccer director, Marcelo Solar, says.

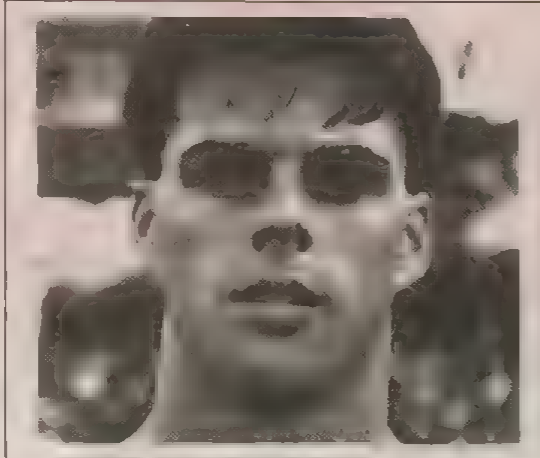
"It is unfortunate, but whenever there is an incident in a game involving Condors, there are assumptions made within the community that our club must naturally be at fault," he said.

"While people are telling us we were not to blame, and the federation itself says no fault should be attached to either club, the decision to let the score stand leaves us as the disadvantaged ones."

The university was leading 3-0 in the 62nd minute when the referee, Owen Heness, stopped the game after noticing a lively conversation between two spectators and two Condors players. He reported that he then abandoned the game because he felt one of the spectators was interfering with play and that he (the spectator) refused to leave the area when asked.

However, Solar pointed out that the spectator was not connected with Condors and that officials were not asked to take action to persuade the man to leave the area.

The league management committee ruled that the score should stand but that no blame should be attached to either club. That decision was



FORMER AIS STAR JASON VAN BLERK

overturned after Condors appealed to the Disputes Tribunal, the tribunal stating the game should be replayed.

That resulted in the university taking the case to a third and final stage - an appeals board made up of members of the ACTSF executive. It ruled that the score should stand.

Solar said there was nothing further his club could do to gain satisfaction. "But this is only one incident in our relations with the ACTSF," he said.

"We were using Charnwood Oval at the beginning of the season, then we had to leave it because it had been booked for something else.

"Instead, we were given a small and totally unsuitable ground at Dickson Oval which did not allow us to operate canteen facilities.

"We are now using Majura Oval, which is an enclosed

ground and costs a lot more."

Solar said the situation had reached the point where Condors had decided not to proceed with its original aim to seek major club status under the provisions of the Neame report.

"It will be interesting to find out how many other clubs are close to fulfilling all the requirements - and when the Neame report comes into full operation," he said.

The chairman of the Senior Leagues Management Committee, Don Rushan, said that both the university and Condors had been given every chance to use the appeal process.

"That process has been exhausted and the decision has been made," he said. "The league accepts that decision, just had it would have done had it gone the other way.

"I want to stress that as chairman of the league, I played no part in the appeals."

THERE is no point hand-wringing over the number of talented Australian soccer players seeking a career overseas, the coaching director of the Australian Soccer Federation, Mike Wells, says.

"They are going to go - and we can't stop them," he said in Canberra recently. "The best we can do is make sure the money that is paid to secure their services finds its way back into the game here and helps in its future development.

"It has been happening for years in countries like Brazil and Argentina, where the top players routinely head off for Europe. In fact, the export of soccer talent makes a significant contribution to their economies. I see no reason why the same should not be the case here."

Wells said 90 per cent of the "exiles" would eventually return. "You have the most recent cases of Jason Polak and David Clarkson - they come back with enhanced experience from their association with a fully professional game, and with many playing years ahead of them."

He said the Australian federation was putting in place a national coaching system which will give all players a clearly defined career path.

In Canberra for discussions with the Australian Institute of Sport head coach, Ron Smith, Wells

said the Institute would become an integral part of the system. "but with just 18 places available from throughout Australia, it will necessarily remain a program for the very best".

"Our aim is to keep more kids interested and involved, giving them realistic goals."

The Federation wanted to see the development of regional intensive training centres - the ACT example is the Academy of Sport - thus increasing the number of young players receiving elite instruction.

"The age group at this level would be generally lower than that at the AIS - around 15 to 17 - and would provide players for the Australian Jokeys," he said.

"Having these coaches means there will be increased opportunities for senior players after the end of their careers," he said. "Victoria already has Jeff Oliver and Paul Wade in its system and we should ensure there are opportunities for Socceroos and ex-Socceroos to coach."

Wells said he had the support of both the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Coaching Council and welcomed their involvement. The crock of gold which everyone should be working for was the Socceroos' qualification for the World Cup. "Only then will we have justification to be treated like the blue-ribbon sports of track and field and swimming."

ACT BRIEFS

OLYMPIC and Tuggeranong United, battling for the ACT Premier League's runner-up spot behind the Australian Institute of Sport, played a 1-1 draw at Wanniasa Oval. Robert Chicco put United ahead with Eamon Flanagan equalising.

Belconnen United's revival continued with a clear-cut 3-0 win over Juventus. Scorers were Sean Toohey, John Walsh and an own goal. Canberra City, playing under lights at Deakin Oval, beat Canberra Croatia 3-1. Matt Rogers (2) and Lino Fiorese scored for City, Alan Marin replying.

The day before the Australian Institute of Sport and Weston Creek played a 1-1 draw - the Creek took the lead through Jim Cerola with Mark Viduka equalising.

★★★

ENGLISH and Scottish fans will continue to see their favourites live in Canberra through the summer. The Belconnen Soccer Club has taken over the screening of top games on Saturday nights. Admission is free but Belconnen has taken only the first 10 matches on a trial basis to judge interest. A continuation of the service will depend on the level of support.

★★★

THE FEDERATION Cup final between Belconnen United and Olympic will be played at Woden Park Oval on Saturday (2.30pm). The clubs also meet in the Canberra Cup final for reserve teams at 12.30pm. The Margaret Reid Shield, involving youth sides, will be contested by Canberra City and Southern Cross at 10.30am.

★★★

PLAYERS COME and go, but the Australian Institute of Sport remains formidable opposition in the ACT Premier League. One of the stars of the recent 4-1 win over Canberra Croatia was rookie stopper Marko rudén, showing the kind of form that is likely to break a few strikers' hearts in the weeks ahead.

The news from Queensland

By
GUY HAND

BRISBANE United defender Alan Hunter is racing the clock to be fit for the National Soccer League club's first official match this season on September 30.

Hunter is battling a back problem and will have to make rapid improvement to be on the park for United's NSL Cup match against Sydney Olympic in Sydney.

The towering stopper, who has been playing for Lutwyche United in the XXXX League, has cracked fifteen joints in his back and said he was no certainty to be playing in the Cup match.

Hunter missed United's first official training run last Monday night with the injury and will start a course of hydrotherapy this week after finishing his XXXX League commitments with Lutwyche, who have no finals involvement.

The United skipper has played in the unfamiliar role of central striker in recent matches because of the injury.

"That's the only way I was able to play," Hunter said.

"I'm hoping once the XXXX League's over I can work on getting my back right and hopefully do hydrotherapy in my

own pool at home."

Brisbane United physiotherapist Michael Dalglish was a busy man at United's first training session, with striker Chris Sater another patient with his ankle still causing concern.

Quicksilver striker John Brown is also receiving treatment for an ankle injury.

Brisbane United's first NSL match of the season is on October 4 against Melita Eagles in Sydney, with the first home game the following weekend against new boys Morwell Falcons.

★★★

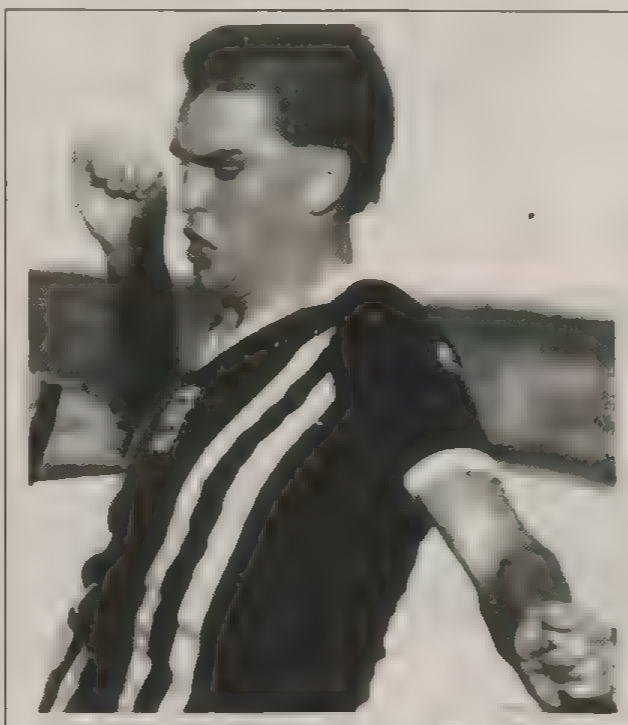
LUTWYCHE United coach Mauro Saftich has been rewarded for his efforts with the XXXX League new boys with a contract for next season.

Saftich, one of the nice guys of Queensland soccer, has guided Lutwyche to a respectable mid-table position in their first season in the top flight.

Saftich said club officials had offered him a new contract and he would be accepting the job again.

"Things are really looking good for next season if we can keep all the players we have," Saftich said.

"This season our aim was to stay up and consolidate for next



ALAN HUNTER

year, which we have done. Next season promises to be a very good one for us."

One man Lutwyche will be keen to get on the books for next season is midfielder Paul

McFadden, who arrived mid-season from ex-NSL side Apia Leichhardt. McFadden has been a great buy for Lutwyche and has got among the goals since arriving in Brisbane.

FORMER Pine Rivers player Jason Polak has won his way into the Australian squad for the World Cup qualifying matches against the Solomon Islands and Tahiti.

Polak is in the 18-man squad for the away match against the Solomons on September 4, with the second match against Tahiti on September 11 in Tahiti.

Polak will return to Brisbane with the Socceroos when they meet Tahiti in the return game at Perry Park on September 20.

★★★

PRE-SEASON favourites Rochedale Rovers dropped out of premiership contention in the second last round of XXXX League fixtures this season with a disappointing 0-0 draw with Brisbane City at Spencer Park.

Rochedale slipped to third place behind North Star and Brisbane Croatia and left them no chance to complete the treble they set themselves at the start of the season - the Queensland Cup which they have already won, the premiership and grand final.

The XXXX League finish will be perfectly scripted, with North

Star and Croatia meeting in the final fixture of the season. Croatia must win to wrest the premiership from the Zillmere club.

In their Round 21 matches, North Star grabbed a two-point lead at the head of the league with a 1-0 victory over Taringa Rovers, while Croatia downed Brisbane Lions 2-1.

In other games, Pine Rivers missed a golden opportunity to cement a finals spot with a 2-2 draw with doomed Grange Thistle and Coalstars drew 2-2 with Lutwyche.

★★★

EASTS made a one-act affair of the Division One women's grand final with a 6-1 demolition of Acacia Ridge.

The Tigers easily accounted for Ridge, surprise victors on penalties over premiers Coalstars in the knockout semi the previous week.

East's led 3-0 at halftime before going on with the job in the second half to post a comfortable win.

Scorers for East's were Léanne Priestley, Marie Grant, Louise Davis, Joanne Millman and Nadia Toffeti, while Raeanne Dower was the sole scorer for Ridge.

THE 1994 WORLD CUP QUAL

THE GREATEST S

A nostalgic look b

WITH THE 1994 World Cup taking place in the USA, it's time to look back at the greatest players of the game. Here are some of the best of the best.



Holland's Marco van Basten.



1990 World Cup finalists Argentina.



German striker Rudi Voller is felled in the penalty area.



Pelé and Roberto Falcao chatting about the good times.

LIFIERS ABOUT TO BLAST OFF

SHOW ON EARTH

ack to ITALIA '90



and West Germany lineup before the kick off at the Olympic Stadium in Rome.



FIFA giants Dr Joao Havelange and Joseph S. Blatter.



Brazil v Costa Rica

WARATAH STATE CUP

SEMI-FINALS

BY PAUL GOODWIN

ALL tracks should lead to the Gabbie Stadium on Wednesday night when both of the plum Waratah Cup semi-finals are held there in the evening.

Petersham Lusitanos and Canberra Metro provide the early fare from 6.30 and it will be an intriguing fixture, pitting one of the best organised First Division sides against a Super League club which does sometimes have a habit of leaving its best form behind in the nation's capital.

Both clubs had Federation semi-final commitments at the weekend, each having finished in the elimination/sudden death position after relatively successful seasons.

Petersham will have a choice of goalkeepers between regular Andrew Lacey and his talented stand-in for much of the year, Stuart Hoy.

Both have performed admirably and coach Mike Berry is in the enviable position of selecting from two of the best in the division each week.

MARKING

Their dependable skipper David Kevern is talking about making this his last year, but we've heard it all before and he would be a pretty hard act to follow in the important right back position.

Matthew Bourke is on his third game of his recent suspension, so will miss the cup tie, but his absence and that of other injured players has afforded youngsters like Mark Santarossa, Gary Deprato and George Saad opportunities they might otherwise not have had.

Now with his first grade experience behind them they can fill in capably for players like Craig Bass slowly recovering from medial ligament damage though 'the big fella' may be back just in time to cause havoc for Canberra Metro.

Tim Andersen has been playing with broken toes, but could still make himself available, while Anthony Friedli, who was absent on a business trip for some time should be back on duty.

FIGURED

Brought to the club as an intended striker from Sydney Macedonia, Friedli has more often figured as a member of the centre defence.

The 'corks' at Petersham, as they often regard themselves, wouldn't get on the park as much if it weren't for the weekly pre-match preparation carried out by expert trainer John Glasby, who sometimes wonders how long they are



GREG BROWN

going to last out there.

Petersham must not be written off as they are full of all the experience necessary to ward off Canberra's challenge.

Mount Druitt and Avala meet in the later fixture, with Mount Druitt player coach Wayne Farnsworth falling into a similar category to many of the Petersham players.

Experiments with strapping to his suspect knee have allowed the nuggety striker to keep his place in the side while others are beginning to feel the strain of a long campaign.

Farnsworth is not grumbling about his players' fitness, though, having put them through the hoops in pre-season and asked more of them than ever in the preparatory work this year.

The extra effort has kept them going for 90 minutes in every game, a vital factor against other more prestigious clubs.

Avala are ready to give

the Waratah State Cup their all now that the premiership issue has been decided.

Mike Johnson would love to pick up yet another trophy and his team will give Mount Druitt their toughest test to date.

The former Southern Districts supremo and his assistant there, Reno Lillo, now also at Avala with his old colleague, have been keeping close tabs on Mount Druitt and respect them enormously.

CURRENT

Lillo knows them from his period as coach of Auburn earlier this term and he has been watching them recently to gauge their current potential.

Avala has been another feather in the cap for the highly motivated Johnson who has managed to instil the same commitment in his players at Avala this year.

Avala has always promised so much, but failed

to perform consistently in past seasons, so much of the credit must go to the former Newcastle and Fulham man and his methods.

He agrees, himself, that this current crop of players are the most passionate bunch he has had in his extensive coaching career and deserve all the good fortune they have enjoyed.

When he arrived at the club he had quite a few good players already and brought in a few newcomers, some of whom he later released.

At an early training session he met Andrew Brockbank, an Avala player in the past who was working his way back to full fitness.

Laughing about it now, as the season draws to a close, Johnson remembers wondering if the overweight balding fellow standing alongside 28-year-old midfielder David Fitzharris might not be that player's father.

Fitzharris was quick to remind Johnson of

Brockbank's pedigree, having been an NSL player with Canberra City and having begun his English days with Blackpool.

It wasn't long before Brockbank 'shed' the 'avoidrupois' and got himself into match shape. He was awarded the vice-captaincy and his talking on the field is highly regarded by his mentor, Johnson.

STRAIN

Although suffering from a leg strain lately 'Brocky' should be back for the crucial cup tie. His ability to fill in at sweeper, left back or in midfield has been a boon to the side and, of course, like his captain Radosavljevic, he is a proficient penalty taker.

Mirko Radosavljevic, 34, the long time club captain of Avala, commands total respect from his fellow players and is a man of great ability and a natural leader of men, according to

man-of-the-moment Mike.

Brought out here originally by Ljubo Gojkovic to Warringah Freshwater some years back, the highly rated sweeper sets the kind of example in his on-field attitude that brings total respect.

It has been a good year, too, for Fitzharris, also brought over from England a while ago, who began here with the now defunct Penrith City, whom he joined from Chorley.

Scott Ashton, 23, one of the characters of the side, has been a tower of strength at stopper and his return from a serious knee injury last year has been a big factor in the club's better showing in 1992. Described as an, at times, outlandish and certainly extroverted player by his coach, Ashton speaks his mind and is not backward in coming forward.

Alejandro Nario, 25, who was another to move from

Southern Districts, is expected back from his honeymoon in time to rejoin the side and will be a key player in the semi final.

Twenty year old prospect Aleksander 'Sasha' Jankovic who joined from Red Star Belgrade is slotting in nicely in the centre midfield now, though Johnson would like to see the player shed a few more kilos yet.

The versatile Peter Vukmirovic, 24, tall for a player with so much to offer in all departments, has been in excellent touch either as full back or in an attacking role and was one of many talented players bequeathed to Johnson by the club when he arrived.

OVERSEAS

It hasn't all been plain sailing for Avala: Greg Brown was recalled for an overseas tour and Hugo Gimenez, like Brown, is now needed by his new NSL club, West Adelaide, now under the guidance of the old maestro Raul Blanco.

Also faced with the loss of Gus Cerro, Johnson turned to Tom Divljak, who had been in the side earlier in the year and did well. He filled Cerro's spot admirably and really impressed with his professionalism, which is the hallmark of the 31 year-old balding midfielder.

The absence of Brown, Gimenez and Craig Foster was compensated by the form of Paul Foster and David Batten who got the goals when they were really needed.

Foster played well throughout, but Batten was a bit of a gamble for Johnson, who feels that he at last holds the key to Batten having seen him at first hand.

NATURAL

The goal grabber, who has been so widely travelled, is being shown how to vary his training routines to bring out his natural speed and is also being encouraged to display more competitiveness in general play.

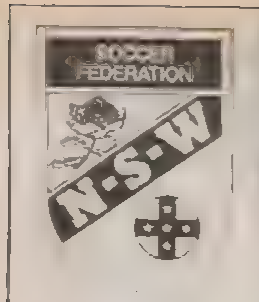
Johnson is pleased with the 28-year-old's progress and expects even bigger things in the future from the strongly built red head.

All in all, Avala are revelling in this success, long overdue as it has been and it is fitting that the establishment of the Serbian Centre in the past couple of years has provided a suitable arena for the stylish team from the South West.

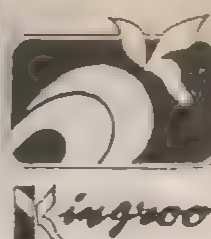
The supporters have the opportunity to see major semi finals at the ground this year now that they have made the grade.

No matter how well Mount Druitt plays on Wednesday night it is hard to see them toppling a team with such a sound record this year.

A good spectacle is still in prospect all the same.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION



ELIMINATION
SEMI FINAL

CANBERRA 2
ADAMSTOWN 1

BY ALISTAIR
RUSSELL

THE CANBERRA METROS remained in the hunt for a Grand Final berth after withstanding a late surge from the Rosebuds, two goals midway through the first half got the Metros home 2-1 at Seymour Shaw.

The Metros poor travellers all season relied on a brilliant opening stanza in which they took the Novocastrians to the cleaners, pushing the ball about cleverly in the blustery conditions at Sutherland.

The boys from the capital were indeed fortunate, taking advantage of the fluke winds to score twice in the first period, with Tony Lemezina always a menace and Fadil Muriqi demonstrating his array of flashy skills to have Adamstown backedpaddling.

As expected Canberra sat back a little on their two goal cushion at the break, Muriqi was often cleaning up at the back while Lemezina was left as a sole striker as the match wore on.

The Rosebuds did get their act together in the second half, Alan Gilday was all over the pitch as he desperately tried to rally his troops, and it was his brilliant header late in the second half that got the Rosebuds back into the contest.

The difference between the two sides was possibly the outstanding goal keeping from Canberra's Paul Jones, who time after time thwarted the green wave looking to punish the Metros for slackening their effort in the second half.

The match never reached any heights, the swirling wind and the bumpy pitch both failed to enhance the standard, while the appalling lack of spectators for a semi final must be looked at by the NSW Federation.

With two out of town sides competing in such an important fixture, a better quality playing surface is a must, while the Federation must look at future finals played in the home city of maybe the club that finished higher on the ladder.

Despite the lack of



GRANT LEE IN ACTION

fans for whom to perform, the Metros did it easy in the first 45 minutes, Andrew Ravanello coming forward combined well with Ray Junna, Vic Fernandez Jr, Lemezina and Muriqi as the front line threaded their way through the stoic Adamstown defence.

The opening goal was little more than a fluke, if still deserved for Canberra's dominance.

Muriqi cleverly side-stepped two defenders wide on the right, before sending over a hopeful cross that swirled over the stranded Craig Harris and into the far corner after just 14 minutes.

Again the Adamstown defence paid for sloppy defence seven minutes later, when wave looking to punish the Metros for slackening their effort in the second half.

Lemezina who had earlier laid on the chance for the Fernandez goal, was leading the defence a merry dance wide on the left flank, and in the 31st minute dragged Tony Richards inside before snaring his shot just wide of the target.

The best chances for the Rosebuds through a demoralising first half fell to their top scorer Ross Wells who blasted over the bar in the sixth minute, while a Tony Richards head

der in the 12th minute was acrobatically tucked over the top by Jones.

Predictably Adamstown enjoyed more control in the second half, although if not for some brave keeping by Rosebuds keeper Harris late in the match, Canberra would have won in a canter.

Neil Owens indicated the Adamstown intentions early, thumping a low drive from outside the area, that Jones did well to tidy up off the unpredictable surface, a minute after the restart.

Canberra fullback Doug Marcina was lucky as his back-header following a corner whistled just over his own bar in the 50th minute, while at the other end Muriqi should have done better when he sprayed his shot wide with only Harris to beat two minutes later.

Twice in two minutes Jones denied the ever more desperate Rosebuds, first clutching a thumping drive from Dean McWhirter, and in the 62nd minute Jones at full stretch turned an Owens long range chip over the top from the same position Muriqi netted the opener in the first half.

With Adamstown pushing for a goal to get back into the match, again Lemezina exposed the Rosebuds at the back, fashioning an inch perfect chip at the far post for

Fernandez who completely missed the target with only Harris to beat in the 74th minute.

The shocking miss looked worse when Gilday thumped home a header for the Rosebuds within a minute, despite the close attentions of a defender, Gilday collected his chance perfectly to crack the ball into the roof of the net beyond a helpless Jones.

Time was beginning to get the better of Adamstown, as the now more desperate Metros again took control.

One of Canberra's best Ravanello, dashed in behind the defence and although his shot beat Harris, desperate defence from Cameron Hudson cleared the ball off the line.

In the final minutes it was still Canberra with the opportunities, Fernandez deftly stepped inside the defence to set up Lemezina, but Harris dashing from his line denied the Metros striker with his legs in the 89th minute.

On the final whistle, again Harris bolted to save at Ravanello's feet, after Lemezina had turned provider.

The lethargic Metros had stumbled into next weeks minor semi final against Warringah, where their mettle to travel the full distance will be fully tested.

In the earlier U19

clash between the same sides, Adamstown advanced to this weekend's major semi final after crushing Canberra 6-0, adding five goals in an impressive second half display.

□□□

BLACKTOWN 2
WARRINGAH 1

THE DEMONS turned the tables on the more fancied Dolphins at the Serbian Centre, a late Steve Berry winner edging Blacktown into this week's major semi with a 2-1 victory.

The defeat came as a minor shock to the Dolphins, having scored a last gasp winner to deny Blacktown last weekend, the more determined Demons came out with all guns blazing, and set Warringah back on their heels inside the first two minutes.

From the kick off, replacement Gary Comerford, in the Demons line up for the suspended Jason Donnelly, overlapped down the left flank and sent in a stinging shot from out wide that was well held by keeper Peter Gunning.

Namesake Geoff Gunning, within a minute had the Demons ahead, from a harmless position the Blacktown striker twisted and turned his

way to the edge of the area before ramming the ball home after just 90 seconds.

Pat Bradley playing his first full match this season for Blacktown was in mercurial form, spraying the ball around the Demons midfield, with much of the Blacktown attack emanating from Bradley's boot.

Grant Lee at the other end was causing havoc for the Demons defence, twice in the 12th and 16th minutes the Dolphin striker troubled custodian Alex McPherson, the latter strike scraping McPherson's woodwork.

Stephane Jee almost increased the Blacktown lead, jinking by four defenders, before unleashing a shot that was turned wide by Gunning.

Four minutes prior to the interval Warringah should have been level, Wayne Pierce wasting a golden chance by ballooning his effort over the bar, and Blacktown kept their narrow lead till the break.

Within two minutes of a double substitution by Warringah coach Glen Sterrey the match was level.

Darren Stewart felled tricky striker Jose Iriarte, and from the

ensuing free kick Frank Gigliotti drove the ball home beyond the wall in the 67th minute.

A bold move from Blacktown coach Ken Schembri swung the balance back the Demons way inside the last ten minutes.

Darren Stewart was pushed up into the front line, giving Blacktown four men in attack, upsetting the organisation of the Warringah defence, who finally succumbed to a brilliant winner from Berry.

Paul Bourke served up a pass for Berry, and following a 40 metre run at the Dolphin goal let fly from an acute angle, tucking the ball inside the far corner for an impressive finale in the 87th minute.

While Blacktown will look to burst the Avala bubble in the major semi final this week, Warringah face the sudden death clash with the unpredictable Canberra.

It was a double celebration for the Demons, ousting Warringah in the U19 Elimination Semi Final by a similar scoreline.

NEW SOUTH WALES

SUPER LEAGUE

FIRST GD

Canberra Metro vs Adamstown Rosebud 2-1
Warringah Dolphin vs Blacktown City 1-2

UNDER 19

Canberra Metro vs Adamstown Rosebud 0-6
Warringah Dolphin vs Blacktown City 1-2

STATE LEAGUE: FIRST DIVISION

FIRST GD

Auburn Utd vs Central Coast 0-0 (pen 4-5)
Mt Druitt Town vs Petersham Lus 3-1

UNDER 19

Dulwich Hill vs West Wanderers 0-0 (pen 4-5)
Auburn Utd vs MacArthur Rams 2-0

STATE LEAGUE: SECOND DIVISION

FIRST GD

Fraser Pk vs North Ryde 1-5
Belmore Hercules vs Bathurst '75 0-1

SECOND GD

Fraser Pk vs Concord Jnrs 1-2
Pt Hacking vs Bathurst '75 1-2

FEDERATION LEAGUE: THIRD

FIRST GD

Trasandinos vs Prospect Utd 1-1 (pen 0-1)
Spanish Club vs Pagewood Bot 0-0 (pen 4-5)

SECOND GD

Arncliffe vs Alexander 1-3
Pagewood Bot vs Hadjuk Rangers 2-1

FEDERATION LEAGUE: FOURTH

FIRST GD

Lithgow Wkn vs Fogolar Furlan 0-1
Abruzzi vs GNS United 1-2

SECOND GD

Fogolar Furlan vs Balmain 4-2
Abruzzi vs GNS United 1-0

FEDERATION LEAGUE: FIFTH

FIRST GD

Gladesville Utd vs Sydney Cretans 1-0
Greystanes vs Maccabi Hakoah 2-1

SECOND GD

Sydney Cretans vs Gladesville Utd 0-3
Phoenix Celtic vs Greystanes 0-1

FEDERATION LEAGUE: SIXTH

FIRST GD

Glebe Wanderers vs Sth Liverpool 3-3 (pen 3-2)
Sth Liverpool vs Punchbowl Dist 2-4

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: FIRST

Marconi vs Avala 2-0
Western Dist vs Sydney Olympic 2-0

SECOND

Western Dist vs Sutherland Shire 1-0
Sydney Olympic vs Marconi 2-0



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

Presents

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6



NSW SUPER LEAGUE

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

SERBIAN CENTRE, BONNYRIGG 3PM

AVALA

versus

BLACKTOWN CITY

U19: Canterbury Marr v Adamstown 1pm

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

JENSEN PARK, SEFTON 3PM

WARRINGAH DOLPHINS

versus

CANBERRA METRO

U19: Canberra Metro v Blacktown City 1pm

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
PRELIMINARY FINAL
GABBIE STADIUM

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 20
GRAND FINAL
MARCONI STADIUM

NSW DIVISION ONE

MAJOR SEMI-FINAL

ARLINGTON OVAL, DULWICH HILL 3PM

CYPRUS UNITED

versus

CENTRAL COAST

U19: Mt Pritchard v West Wanderers 1pm

MINOR SEMI-FINAL

ERNIE SMITH RES, MOOREBANK 3PM

AUBURN UNITED

versus

MT DRUITT TOWN

U19: Dulwich Hill v Auburn United 1pm

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13
PRELIMINARY FINAL
ARLINGTON OVAL 3PM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19
GRAND FINAL
GABBIE STADIUM 3PM

PRELIMINARY FINALS

FEDERATION DIVISION 2

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6

POPENDETTA PARK

PRELIMINARY FINAL

1st Grade: Belmore Hercules v North Ryde 3pm
2nd Grade: Port Hacking v Concord 1pm

FEDERATION DIVISION 3

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6

VALENTINE PARK 1

PRELIMINARY FINAL

1st Grade: Spanish Club v Prospect United 3pm
2nd Grade: Hajduk Rangers v Alexander 1pm

FEDERATION DIVISION 4

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 6

VALENTINE PARK 2

PRELIMINARY FINAL

1st Grade: Abruzzi v Fogolar Furlan 3pm
2nd Grade: Fogolar Furlan v GNS United 1pm

FEDERATION DIVISION 5

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 5

VALENTINE PARK 1

PRELIMINARY FINAL

1st Grade: Gladesville v Maccabi Hakoah 3pm
2nd Grade: Gladesville v Phoenix Celtic 1pm

WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 2

VALENTINE PARK 2

PRELIMINARY FINAL

1st Grade: Sydney Olympic v Marconi 8.15pm
2nd Grade: Marconi v Western Dists 6.30pm

WARATAH STATE CUP

SEMI-FINALS — GABBIE STADIUM WED SEPT 2

CANBERRA METRO V_s PETERSHAM LUSITANOS 6.30PM

AVALA V_s MT DRUITT TOWN 8.15PM

DON'T MISS THE CUP ACTION!

(The final will be played at the Gabbie Stadium on Sat September 26 at 3pm, preceded by the final of the Women's Waratah Shield at 1pm)

ALL MATCHES TIMES (Unless otherwise stated)

1ST GRADE 3PM UNDER 19 1PM

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**SAMSUNG****NSW SOCCER FEDERATION****Real****FIRST DIVISION
SEMI-FINALS****PRELIMINARY FINAL****BY PAUL GOODWIN****FIRST GRADE****CENTRAL COAST 0
AUBURN UNITED 0**

IN a game which never really got into stride until late in the second half of regulation time Auburn and Central Coast played a dogged preliminary first grade semi final at Arlington eventually having to rely on penalties to separate themselves.

Moon Kyung Kim was instrumental in three good moves on the left in the last ten minutes of normal time, but on each occasion his crosses from the byline went begging.

Gurkan Tasdemir hit a fine 84th minute volley which Jason Holmes managed to palm away and Holmes along with a clever lob by Kim at about the same time, the ball looking set to find the keeper out at the top right corner.

During extra time Mehmet Silkecki came into his own for Auburn, the colourful custodian saving twice from Gary Chapple and then from both Jason Gribble and Rod Brown.

Brown almost sealed it with a header in the 23rd minute of extra time, the red haired striker connecting when Andrew Ollier cut the ball back from the byline. The ball rolled along the bar and then went out much to Auburn's relief.

The inevitable penalty shoot-out brought similar fortunes for those intent on finding the net.

Misses, or saves were the rule rather than the exception during the sixteen shot sequence and there had already been four shots before anything went in at all.

Tom Bazdaric and Ozcan Celik both hit the left post for Auburn, while Rod Brown and Jason Gribble had their shots saved by Silkecki.

Gurkan Tasdemir, Camber Genc and Sasha Spirovski then all converted for Auburn only for Andrew Ollier, Jason Holmes and Mark Drysdale to match them for the Coasties.

When John Gregson's shot was saved Dale Eggleton was expected to finish it off, but he, too, was denied by Silkecki's top save.

Irfan Tuysuz could not restore Auburn's lead and Andrew Clarke finally settled it 5-4 for Coast with their eighth attempt.

CENTRAL COAST: Holmes, Drysdale, Corbett, Currow, Chapple, Eggleton, Clarke, Prospero (Ollier 58), Roberts, Sharpe (Gribble 106), Brown.
AUBURN UNITED: Silkecki, Higgins, Muyesser, T. Bazdaric, John Gregson, C. Genc, Spirovski, Kim, Read (Tuysuz 106), Celik.
REFEREE: Manny Lupis.

UNDER-19**WEST WANDERERS 0
DULWICH HILL 0**

ERNIE Smith Reserve was the venue for the Under 19 preliminary semi final and the blustery wind which swept across the somewhat exposed Moorebank ground had a bearing on the quality of the game.

Dulwich Hill were, frankly, outplayed by a skilful West Wanderers outfit, but for a number of reasons hung on to a 0-0 scoreline right through until the end of extra time.

B.II Koneski in the Dulwich Hill goal was in sensational form, but apart from his exploits, Wests hit the post three times. Lawrence Hall, Danny Coccoza and John Gart all made the timber tremble at various stages, but at the end of extra time Danny Hinton should have made certain anyway.

Hinton headed over the bar at the far post with three minutes to go and then in the dying second volleyed out of the ground, both times from right in front.

When it went to a penalty shoot out, Rick Rossini converted the first, confidently, for Dulwich Hill, but Ivo de Jesus missed the second for his club.

Wests netted their first four shots, Brett Lyons, Lawrence Hall, Danny Coccoza and Shane Borg all being on target.

It was only after Paul Boag, John Ruperto and Zaya Jabrael had converted for Dulwich Hill and Wests needed a fifth to wrap it up that Brad Gambrill hit his attempt wide.

Dulwich Hill had a chance to get in front, but Zosimo Santos missed his side's sixth chance, leaving Andrew Hunter to score the decider.

Hunter's first shot was saved, but Koneski was penalised for moving and Hunter did not miss the second time around.

So Wests move on to the next stage where they ought to make further progress.

The club is disappointed to learn that the inter-state schools series coincides with the NSW finals and that they could lose two of their key players, Danny Hinton and Shane Borg.

They have appealed to the schools to have the players released.

WEST WANDERERS: Kasterlan, Sultana (Gambrill 65), A. Hunter, Fisk, D. Cook, Hinton, Borg, Coccoza, Maric, Gart (Lyons 80), Hall.

DULWICH HILL: Koneski, Gibb, Courtis, Lupo, Rossini, Gomes, Boag, Ruperto, Abreu (Jabrael 75), Madsar (Santos 70), de Jesus.

REFEREE: B. Grabowski.**ELIMINATION SEMI
FINAL
FIRST GRADE****MOUNT DRUITT 3
PETERSHAM 1**

PETERSHAM began brightly in their elimination semi final against Mount Druitt, conscious that they had an unbeaten record against Wayne Farnsworth's boys in the premiership, behind them.

**ROD BROWN IN ACTION**

MOUNT DRUITT: Jenkins, Close, Downs, Agius, Campbell, Clune, Shipley (Chew 83), White, Smith, D. Pratt, M. Pratt (Elborough 75).

PETERSHAM: Hoy, Kevern, Saad, Naylor, Bennett, Lombardo (Friedli 80), Hayward, Deprato (Andersen 65), Jeffery, Disch, Lowe.

REFEREE: Alex Spirovski.**ELIMINATION
SEMI-FINAL
UNDER 19****AUBURN UNITED 2
CAMPBELLTOWN RAMS 0**

AUBURN were favoured by a strong breeze at their backs in the elimination semi final at Arlington oval against the Campbelltown Rams and had several early chances to gain the ascendancy.

Aydin Cetinay was unable to make the most of chances right in front, shooting wide twice and then having his best effort well saved by Alan Ahern.

Senol Sertbas was able to chip over the head of Ahern in the 50th minute to give Auburn an early second half lead and from then on Auburn were well in control.

The best chance their opponents had was when Haydar Arslan was presented with a poor back pass and had to scramble the ball away. He was back in goal in time to

make a second save when the ball quickly fell to a Campbelltown player.

Aaron Kellaway made a great run for The Rams on the left in the 77th, but was upended and the resultant free kick came to nothing.

Auburn put the game beyond doubt in the 86th when Palbo Medina slotted the ball away after a solid build up to the edge of the box.

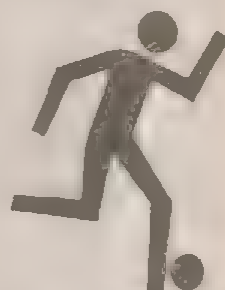
AUBURN UNITED: Arslan, Adem Cetinay (Tavlin 90), Browne, Citindag, Kadayifci, Ergun (Tokdogan 88), S. Sertbas, Medina, Aydin Cetinay, Ditte, P. Bazdaric.

CAMPBELLTOWN RAMS: Ahern, Robinson, Brown, Rogers, A. Mora, Platjies, Bangs, Muscat (Culvert 68), Kellaway, Lound, Theori.

REFEREE: Wilf Filipczyk.**FULL RESULTS****FIRST GRADE****CENTRAL COAST 0
AUBURN 0
(COAST WON ON
PENALTIES 5-4)****PENALTY SCORES**

CENTRAL COAST: Ollier, Holmes, Drysdale, Chapple, Clarke.
AUBURN UNITED: Tasdemir, Genc, Spirovski, Muyesser.

MOUNT DRUITT 3 (Shipley 2, Smith) PETERSHAM 1 (Hayward)

**UNDER-19****WEST WANDERERS 0
DULWICH HILL 0
(WESTS WON ON
PENALTIES 5-4)**

PENALTY SCORERS
WEST WANDERERS: Lyons, Hall, Coccoza, Borg, A. Hunter

DULWICH HILL: Rossini, Boag, Ruperto, Jabrael
AUBURN UNITED 2 (S. Sertbas, Medina)
CAMPBELLTOWN 0

**PREVIEW OF
NEXT WEEK'S
MATCHES**

Big guns Cyprus United will face Central Coast in the Major First Grade Semi Final at Arlington Oval.

Joe Watson's man will be refreshed and ready to make a quick passage into the Grand Final with a win in this one.

We fancy Coast to get there first, though, a team bent on beating Cyprus this time around after disappointments earlier in the year.

The Under-19s Major will bring together Mount Pritchard and West Wanderers and a Wests win is tipped, though they would have preferred another game at Ernie Smith Reserve.

In the Minor First Grade semi final Mount Druitt takes on Auburn at Ernie Smith and it should be a close contest.

The midweek Waratah Cup result may have a bearing on Mount Druitt's performance, but they are capable of producing the goods no matter how they fare on Wednesday.

A Mount Druitt win is definitely a possibility, but like last week's affair a penalty shoot out is quite likely.

Wayne Farnsworth will be back for this encounter fresh from a two weeks suspension and may play an important part in the outcome.

The Under 19 Minor semi brings together Dulwich Hill and Auburn in a game which is too close to call. Auburn were solid against Campbelltown, but Dulwich Hill have been the better side in previous meetings so could just edge out Aytek Genc's boys here.

OLYMPIC DANE FRANCE BOUND

MIKLOS Molnar, the centre forward of the Danish Olympic team who failed to create an impression in Spain and who missed the match against Australia because he copped two yellow cards against Mexico, will play in France this season.

The son of Hungarian immigrants, Molnar, 21, signed for St Etienne for three seasons.

Molnar has played the past 18 months in Switzerland, for Servette, of Geneva.

He started his career with Brondby in Denmark, and also has four A caps to his credit.

St Etienne are believed to have forked out \$2 million for him — and if that's true, one just wonders how much a John Markovski would fetch on the inflated European market where it's the reputation of the country that counts, not the class of the player.

— LOU GAUTIER

ROBSON'S SPORTING APPROACH

BOBBY Robson has proved an instant hit with his new club Sporting Lisbon.

His professional approach has impressed directors, players and media.

Last season, under Brazilian boss Mario Marinho, Sporting's players did not turn up for training until mid-morning.

But Robson not only



BOBBY ROBSON

brought his new squad back to work after the summer break before virtually any other club, he also insisted on a 9am start each day.



Jurgen Kohler of Germany and Denmark's Fleming Povlsen at Euro-92. Both players will be key performers for their countries in the upcoming USA '94 qualifiers.

CHANGES IN AFRICA



Philemon Massinga of South Africa and Jacob Ewans of Cameroun clash during their recent 2-2 draw in Johannesburg.

SOUTH Africa is being allowed to take part in the 1994 World Cup.

South Africa was re-admitted to FIFA on July 3, ending a 18-year absence, and played their first international the same month against the 1990 World Cup quarter-finalists Cameroon.

A FIFA spokesman said teams could enter the competition, even

at this late stage, in those federations where the preliminary matches had not yet started.

South Africa replace Sao Tome and Principe, who pulled out of Africa's Group D, and will kick off their campaign away to Nigeria on October 10.

The other teams in the group are Congo and Libya.

The FIFA spokesman also said that Benin will replace Malawi, who have pulled out of Group F, while Namibia, also admitted to FIFA in July, replace Burkina Faso, who withdrew from Group H.

Miguel Soler may cope abuse

BARCELONA fullback Miguel Soler could be the subject of terrace abuse next season — from his own fans!

Soler looked set to become one of the few players to be transferred from Barcelona to bitter rivals Real Madrid, but got cold feet at the eleventh hour.

And although he has committed himself to Barcelona the fans will be slow to forgive him for even considering a move to Real.

The clubs had agreed a \$3.3 million deal before Soler bottled it.

Not since 1961 have Barcelona sold a player directly to their greatest rivals.

He was international winger Jesus Tejada whose goals helped take Real to the 1962 European Champions'



MIGUEL SOLER

Cup final.

Barcelona fans are also chuffed that their new sponsors this season have a white logo

— which will appear on the players' shirt. And white, of course, is hated Madrid's colour!

AGOSTINI MIFFED!

LUIGI De Agostini is still mystified by his transfer from Juventus to Inter.

He says: "Nobody even bothered to explain why I was no longer wanted by Juve."

"I'd given the club seven good years and they didn't need to sell me to let in a foreign player."

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



- One of Hungary's best-ever forwards, Ferenc Bene, is the new coach of Ujpest in the First Division. Also in Hungary, Ferencvartos have loaned former USSR international Vassili Rats, an ethnic Hungarian, to a Second Division club this season.
- Romanian First Division club Politehnica Timisoara are in big financial strife. Their Italian sponsors, the Sira company, have pulled out following the failure of Bologna to regain promotion to the Italian First Division. Sira decided to stop forking out money to Bologna and to the Romanian club, which may now have to disband.
- Rube Emiliano Verga, the libero of the Italian Olympic team that flopped at Barcelona '92, will play for Fiorentina next season after being let go by AC Milan.
- Another Argentinian has joined Second Division Homburg in Germany — 22-year-old Adriano Gallego. He joins countrymen Rodolfo Cardozo and international Sergio Maciel there.
- Coach Vassilis Daniel, replaced by former Yugoslav national team supreme Ivica Osim at Panathinaikos, has high hopes that his new club, Apollon Kalamaria, will do very well this season after signing three Yugoslavs.
- The King Fahd Cup draw, for the winners of the continental championships minus Europe (and Oceania, which has no such championships), in Saudi Arabia is: October 15 — Saudi Arabia v USA and Ivory Coast v Argentina. The final is on October 20, in Riyadh. European champions Denmark declined to compete as they will be involved in World Cup qualifiers then.
- Portuguese international star Diamantino will retire at the end of the 1992/93 season. He delayed his retirement to help his club, Vitoria Setubal, reclaim First Division status.
- Former Greek international goalkeeper Sarganis has been surprisingly let go by Athinaikos despite brilliant performances last season.
- Italian sportswear manufacturing giants Diadora are the new sponsors of crack Austrian team Rapid Vienna. Diadora replaces another top Italian sportswear firm, Kappa.
- Iranian Hechmat Moushajari, the coach who led Iran to the 1978 World Cup finals in Argentina, replaces German Bernhard Pazki as national boss of Oman. The Iranian knows Persian Gulf football as he spent five years in the United Arab Emirates in the 1980s.
- Brazil Jose Roberto has resigned as coach of Qatar's youth team because he claims countryman Evaristo de Macedo, coach of the senior side, was interfering in his business.
- Ujpest's Hungarian international goalkeeper Istvan Brockhauser has joined Honved Kijpest, with whom he signed a three-year contract.
- Noel King has returned to Ireland after a season in the French Second Division. King, sacked by Shamrock Rovers two years ago, is the new coach of Limerick City, replacing Sam Allendy.
- German striker Olivier Bierhoff is remaining with Ascoli in the Italian Second Division following the return to Patrick Vervoort to Belgium to join Standard Liege.
- Ghana's Sarfo Gyamfi, a member of the team that finished second in this year's African Nations' Cup, has been transferred from his Austrian side, Wacker Innsbruck to Fortuna Dusseldorf, of Germany.
- The Ivory Coast, winners of this year's African Nations' Cup, outclassed Egypt 2-0 in a friendly match in their capital city of Abidjan. Yacouba Comara and Donald Sié scored the goals.
- Olimpia Poznan have gone under in Poland. The First Division team's players have been snapped up by other clubs, including two members of Poland's silver medal-winning Olympic side. Another Poznan club, Warta, replaces them in the league and will be called Warta Olimpia.
- After an unsuccessful stint in the French Second Division, Czechoslovakian international midfielder Lubos Luhovy, has rejoined Slovan Bratislava, of Slovakia.
- Argentinian midfielder Omar Burruchaga has finally found a new home. Let go, and at long last paid by Nantes, he is now with promoted Valenciennes, also in France.
- French international defender Bernard Pardo has hung up his boots at the age of 30. Pardo's season went into decline after he left Bordeaux for Marseille, then Paris St Germain.



Lothar Matthaus, acclaimed by the Inter fans when he was all the rage in Milan.

Prodigal son's return

THERE are strong rumours in Germany that prodigal son Lothar Matthaus may soon be coming home.

Now fully recovered from the knee surgery that kept him out of Euro-92, the captain of the German national team is anything but sure to gain a starting berth at Inter Milan.

With Mathias Sammer and Darko Pancev on their books, and Andy Brehme and Jurgen Klinsmann sold to Spanish and French clubs respectively, Inter have

not included their former star in their 1992/93 plans.

The mass-circulation "Sportbild" magazine is now speculating that Bayern Munich may snap up their former player.

And Matthaus has told another publication, the prestigious "Kicker", that he would love to take part in another World Cup finals — his fourth if Germany qualify for USA '94 — and become the most capped German international, ahead of Franz Beckenbauer, who has 103 caps to his credit.

— LOU GAUTIER

ALL-INDIAN WINNERS

TWELVE teams participated in this year's All-India Federation Cup and in the final, Mogun Bagan SC beat East Bengal SC 2-0 to become the proud winners of the trophy.

Mogun Bagan also won the right to represent India in the 12th Asian Club Championship this year.



Sharad Prasad, the Defence Minister of India, being introduced to the match officials and players before the semi-final of the Indian Federation Cup.

CATCH ALL THE INTERNATIONAL ACTION, 7 DAYS A WEEK, 52 WEEKS A YEAR IN ABSW. SUBSCRIBE NOW!

Racism scares two Dutch starlets away

TWO young Dutch Olympians who were unsuccessful against the Olyroos have moved from Dordrecht to Feyenoord.

Dean Goree and Errol Refos demanded to be transferred after alleged racist remarks by Dordrecht president Cees van den Braven.

Feyenoord have been tipped by Dutch experts to come close to winning the 1992/93 championship as they have lost no players and have also reinforced themselves by buying Nigerian striker Mike Obiku.

Local pundits are saying it will be a PSV, Feyenoord, Ajax 1-2-3 finish.

Drug tests for German players

GERMAN footballers could face random dope-tests during training after revelations that the drug Clenbuterol is freely used to treat injured players.

Christoph Daum, coach of Bundesliga champions VfB Stuttgart, told the newspaper "Bild" that the drug was frequently used to speed the convalescence of players after injury and help build up their muscle strength.

German drugs specialist professor Manfred Donike confirmed that the drug could be prescribed by doctors in such circumstances, but pointed out that players taking the drug could not, under IOC regulations, play in matches or even take part in training.

New names in European Cups

THEY don't have the glamour of Barcelona or the fame of AC Milan, but they're playing in European Cup competitions just the same.

Clubs of six of soccer's "new nations" are now involved in their first European games in preliminary rounds of the Cupwinners' Cup and Champions' Cup competitions.

Eight new nations were admitted to the competitions in June by European soccer's governing body UEFA — most have to qualify through the preliminary round.

Russia's representative clubs replaced the former Soviet Union and play the first round proper, while Lithuanian champion Zhalgiris Vilnius was also exempted from the qualifying round.

In the Champions' Cup, Klaksvikar of the Faroe Islands met Skonto Riga of Latvia, Olimpija Ljubljana of Slovenia played Norma Tallinn of Latvia, FC Shelbourne of Ireland, Ukraine's Tavria Simferopol and FC Valetta of Malta, Israel's Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Israel? In European competition?

UEFA accepted Israel into Europe last September, recognising it could not play against its Arab neighbours in Asian competition, nor continue to

play its World Cup qualifying games in the Oceania group.

With the national team in Europe, Israeli clubs came too.

Hapoel Petach Tikva, Israel's representative in the Cupwinners' Cup competition between holders of the major national cup, was drawn against Norway's Stroemgodset Drammen.

Stroemgodset managed an unlikely double — it won the Norwegian Cup but was relegated in the league after finishing last of the 12 First Division clubs.

Other Cupwinners' Cup matches pitted FC Vaduz of Liechtenstein against Ukraine's Chernomorets Odessa, Avenir Beggen of Luxembourg against B36 Thorshavn of the Faroe Islands, and Slovenia's Branik Maribor against Hamrun Spartans of Malta.

The two Israeli clubs won their first leg, away matches but the Faroe Islanders' lost theirs.

The Slovenians won big against the Estonians and as expected, the Ukrainian representatives, had no problems in Liechtenstein and Eire.



Paris St Germain's new goalkeeper Serge Lama — the man who replaces the now retired Joel Bats.



Spain's Quaiico Narvaez in action against Poland in the Olympic final. His two goals have made the hitherto little known Cadiz striker a national hero.

Gates up, goals down in South America

STATISTICS prove that attendances at South American matches have shown a notable increase in Argentina, Chile and Colombia, but are down in Brazil and Paraguay.

This is not directly related to goals. Chile has the highest average in South America at the moment, but there are special reasons, while Argentina has the lowest.

Argentine average attendances have steadily fallen in past-war years, but are now about 10,000 for the first time in six seasons. These statistics were taken from earlier rounds of the championship, when interest was not at its height.

This year both Argentina's big clubs — River Plate and Boca Juniors — who have won most titles and have the biggest followings, have been fighting for the title.

There is also a system in the country where club members get in free at their own stadium.

In Colombia, where clubs are more commercial and limited companies, as in Bri-

tain, attendances always have been among the highest in South America, and are increasing.

The 1990 average of 12,125 per game increased 25 per cent last year to 15,423, while this year's increase in Chile for the usual pre-season tournament, which involves First and Second Division clubs, is as much as 22 per cent.

In Brazil, soccer is slowly slipping. Motor racing and even volleyball (two sports in which Brazil has had more international success), are now more popular. Soccer gates continue to slide and are 10 per cent down on the same period last year (the national championship).

The same applies to Paraguay, where average attendances for the Championship of the Republic, which includes provincial (non-league) champions, are as low as 900 per

game.

Chile has the highest scoring average, 3.23 per match in the Copa Chile, but with Second Division teams taking part there is sometimes a big difference in standards, and a new system being tried out gives bonus points for goals.

Argentina and Uruguay are scoring fewest goals. There is an even standard across the Argentine national championship, and nearly every team adopts defensive tactics.

In Uruguay an abundance of small clubs with no title hopes take the field with the idea that one point is better than none.

Goals per game in seven South American countries are:

- Chile 3.23
- Bolivia 2.65
- Ecuador 2.57
- Peru 2.34
- Brazil 2.33
- Argentina and
- Uruguay 2.00

BATTLE IS ON FOR AFRICAN NATIONS' CUP

THE battle for places in the 1994 African Nations' Cup finals us on in earnest.

Readmitted to international football last month after 28 years of apartheid-induced isolation, the South Africans made their Cup debut in Zimbabwe — and lost!

After drawing the recent series with Cameroun South African official Solomon Morewa boasted that his country would "clean up" in Group 5.

But South African-born Gary Bailey, the former Manchester United and England goalkeeper now living in Johannesburg, does not share this view.

"There us no way South Africa will compete on the international stage with any distinction for a long time to come," he said.

Bailey believes South African players could bring a "new element of unbridled skill" to the game, but that they would crack away from home.

Although Zimbabwe have never reached the finals, they are virtually invincible in Harare, where they have not lost a qualifying tie since 1982.

Zambia, favourites to top the Group 5 standings and qualify for the finals in Tunisia, began their campaign at home to Mauritius.

Cameroun, having seen the retirement of many of the stars who set the 1990 World Cup finals alight, could struggle in Gabon, their Group 1 rivals.

Nigeria, third in the 1992 Nations' Cup fi-

nals and the team expected to go forward from Group 2, also face a tough baptism away to Sudan.

Algeria and Senegal, under new managers after dismal displays in the last finals, should prove too strong for Guinea Bissau and Togo in Group 3.

Zaire, the most likely qualifiers from Group 4, host Mozambique, while Kenya, bidding the reach their fourth consecutive finals, visit Lesotho.

Group 6 favourites Congo, back among the top nations after more than a decade in the doldrums, are away to unknown quantities Burundi.

Ghana, beaten by the Ivory Coast in the 1992 final after a penalty shootout, visit Tanzania, normally no pushover on their own ground.

Egypt, who travel to Malawi, and idle Morocco should clinch the two qualifying places in Group 8, which also includes Mauritania and Mali.

The draw:

Group 1: Gabon v Cameroun, Benin v Niger.

Group 2: Sudan v Nigeria, Uganda v Ethiopia.

Group 3: Algeria v Guinea Bissau, Senegal v Togo. Bye: Sierra Leone.

Group 4: Zaire v Mozambique, Lesotho v Kenya.

Group 5: Zambia v Mauritius, Zimbabwe v South Africa.



Zambia's Bwalya Kalusha: the PSV striker will be his country's best hope of accounting for Zimbabwe, shock winners over South Africa, in their African Nations' Cup group.

Group 6: Burundi v Congo, Chad v Guinea.

Group 7: Tanzania v Ghana, Burkina Faso v Liberia.

Group 8: Malawi v Egypt, Mauritania v

Mali. Bye: Morocco.

Winners and runners-up of Group 3 and 8 and winners of Groups 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 qualify for the finals with holders Ivory Coast and hosts Tunisia.



Action from the previous African Nations' Cup finals in Senegal.



LATEST OVERSEAS RESULTS



FRANCE

P St Germain	2	Caen	0
Toulon	1	Montpellier	0
Nîmes	1	Nantes	1
Lyon	2	Marseille	2
Auxerre	1	Bordeaux	0
Le Havre	0	Monaco	0
Metz	5	Sochaux	1
Toulouse	1	Strasbourg	1
Lens	1	St Etienne	1
Valenciennes	0	Lille	1

STANDINGS

Pans St Germain	8
Auxerre	6
Montpellier	6
Nantes	6
Marseille	6
Monaco	5
Strasbourg	5

Paris St Germain cruised to a 2-0 home win over Caen to stay top of the French First Division with maximum points.

International midfielder David Ginola opened the scoring after 27 minutes and Laurent Fournier wrapped up his side's fourth win by volleying in a Ginola cross in the 63rd minute.

Paris St Germain hold a two-point lead over a batch of clubs, including champions Marseille who scored in the closing seconds to preserve its unbeaten record in a 2-2 draw at lowly Lyon.

Franck Sauzee put Marseille ahead from a free kick in the

ninth minute only for James Debah to equalise five minutes later.

The home side must have thought they were home and dry when Debah scored again with a minute left.

But Basile Boli spared Marseille's blushes with a last-gasp equaliser.

Monaco, runners-up last season, were held to a goalless draw at Le Havre. The team from the principality are sixth in the 20-strong league with five points.

POLAND

S Bytom	1	G Zabrze	0
J Bialystok	0	R Chorzow	3
O Poznan	1	L Warszawa	3
Z Bydgoszcz	0	L Poznan	2
P Szczecin	1	GKS Katowice	1
W Krakow	5	Saski Wroclaw	0
LKS Lodz	3	Widzew Lodz	3
Z Lubin	1	Stan Mielec	1
S Tarnobrzeg	2	H Krakow	0

STANDINGS

Lech Poznan	10
Ruch Chorzow	8
Widzew Lodz	8
Legia Warszawa	7
LKS Lodz	7

GERMANY

VfB Stuttgart	2	Karlsruhe	1
Saarbrücken	1	Schalke	3
B Dortmund	1	K'Slaatern	0

W'scheid	1	E Frankfurt	2
Bayern M.	3	D Dresden	1
Cologne	2	Hamburg	2
Werder Bremen	3	Bochum	1
B M'gladbach	0	B Uerdingen	4
Nuremberg	0	Leverkusen	1

STANDINGS

Bayern Munich	6
Bayer Leverkusen	6
Eintracht Frankfurt	5
Borussia Dortmund	5
VfB Stuttgart	5

SWITZERLAND

N Xamax	0	Servette	0
Lausanne	3	FC Zurich	2
Young Boys	2	St Gallen	1
Sion	3	Chiasso	0
Grasshopper	4	Bulle	0
Lugano-Aarau postponed			

STANDINGS

Servette	13
Sion	12
Lugano	10
Lausanne	10
Aarau	10
Young Boys	10

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Ipswich	1	Tottenham	1
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DIVISION ONE

Birmingham	2	Grimsby	1
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Tottenham lifted itself off the bottom of the English soccer's Premier League table with a draw at newly promoted Ipswich, but it took a freak goal to earn a point.

A scrappy first half was 30 minutes old when Spurs centre-back Jason Cundy hit a firm clearance from the right, just inside the Ipswich half.

The ball caught the wind and soared into ex-Canadian ice-hockey star Craig Forrest's net to give Spurs a lead they barely deserved.

Ipswich hit back on the stroke of half-time, with 35-year-old ex-Scotland international John Wark latching on to a lob through the heart of the Spurs defence to chip home neatly.

The goals enlivened a poor first half in which both teams struggled in a difficult wind.

In the second half, Ipswich made the better chances but could not wrap the game up. Wark headed over from close range, and Chris Kiwomya and Jason Dozzell continually troubled the Spurs defence.

Tottenham, hard pressed, had little to offer up front. Teddy Sheringham, their \$A5.84 million signing from Nottingham Forest on Friday, made a subdued debut.

ITALY

AC Milan beat Parma 2-1 (halftime 1-1) to win the Italian Super Cup.

Scorers: Milan - Marco van Basten (14th min), Daniele Massaro (70th).

Parma - Alessandro Melli (penalty, 45th).

Attendance: 35,000

Substitute Daniele Massaro grabbed the winner as Italian league champions AC Milan beat cup holders Parma 2-1 to lift the Super Cup.

Massaro diverted a shot from team-mate Mauro Tassotti beyond Parma goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel in the 70th minute to give Milan the first of what they hope will be many trophies this season.

Massaro had been on the field only a few minutes after replacing French striker Jean-Pierre Papin, who failed to impress.

The result was rough justice on Parma, who showed its Italian Cup final win over Juventus last May, which gave the provincial club the first major triumph in its history, was no flash in the pan.

Milan went ahead in the 14th minute when Dutch international striker Marco van Basten slotted home a loose ball after Milan defender Paolo Maldini had ripped open

the Parma defence with a superb, surging run.

Parma equalised from the penalty spot through striker Alessandro Melli on the stroke of halftime.

The spot kick was awarded after their Colombian striker Faustino Asprilla, a close-season signing from Nacional of Medellin, outpaced the Milan defence and forced goalkeeper Francesco Antonioli to bring him down.

HOLLAND

Volendam	0	Wallwijk	2
S Rotterdam	0	Amsterdam	0
FC Utrecht	0	Rotterdam	0
Enschede	5	Groningen	0
Go Ahead E D2	0	Den Bosch	0
Dordrecht 90	2	Maastricht	2
F Sittard	0	Tilburg	1
Kerkrade	0	V Arnhem	2

STANDINGS

F Rotterdam	5
A Amsterdam	5
FC Utrecht	4
Vitesse Arnhem	4
FC Twente Enschede	4

IRELAND

Bohemians	6	Waterford	0
Limerick	0	Derry City	0
Shamrock R	0	Drogheda	0
Sligo Rovers	0	Cork City	3

SOUTH AMERICA

with
MARIO ETCHART

TWO MORE TEAMS!

With CONCACAF's official authorisation, it was finally determined that Mexico and the USA will participate in the next Copa America to be held in Ecuador in 1993.

The United States joins the most prominent continental tournament of South American national teams as the Golden Cup champion (equivalent to CONCACAF's Copa America), and Mexico as special guest.

The 36th edition of the tournament scheduled for the

period comprised between June 18 and July 4, 1993, will be played in six venues.

Group 1 will be held in Ecuador's capital city, Quito and one match in Ibarra; Group 2 in Cuenca (four matches) and Machala (two matches) and Group 3 in Ambato.

The final round robin will be played in Guayaquil.

The seeded teams are Brazil, Argentina and Ecuador.

SUPERCUP

The fifth edition of the South American Supercup, reserved for the 16 clubs who have won the Copa Libertadores will begin on September 30, ending on November 25.

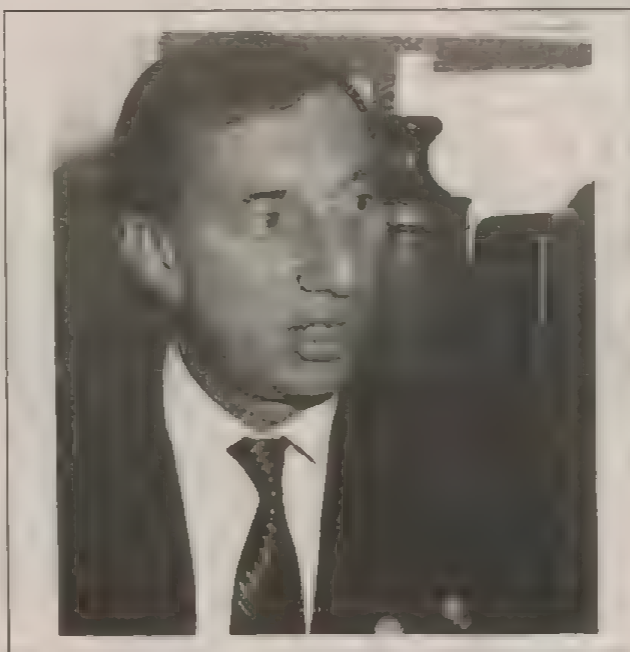
The winner of the Supercup will be entitled to play against the Copa Libertadores champion in Kobe, Japan, on April 18, 1993 for the South American Cup's Cup.

Sao Paulo is the new participant in this year's tournament, and Colombian Atletico Nacional re-entered the competition.

The Supercup first round draw is the following:

A) Boca Juniors (Argentina) vs Estudiantes de La Plata (Argentina).

B) Flamengo (Brazil) vs Gremio (Brazil).



CARLOS BILARDO

C) Racing (Argentina) vs Independiente (Argentina).

D) Nacional (Uruguay) vs Penarol (Uruguay).

E) Colo Colo (Chile) vs Olimpia (Paraguay).

F) Sao Paulo (Brazil) vs Santos (Brazil).

G) River Plate (Argentina) vs Argentinos Juniors (Argentina).

H) Cruzeiro (Brazil) vs Atletico Nacional (Colombia).

The quarter finals will face the following:

Winner A vs winner B; winner C vs winner D; winner E vs winner F and winner G vs H.

The four previous winners were:

1988 Racing Club (Argentina).

1989 Boca Juniors (Argentina).

1990 Olimpia (Paraguay).

1991 Cruzeiro (Brazil).

BRIEFS

Huracan is the leader of the Argentine league First Phase after its 2-0 win over newly promoted San Martin of Tucuman. But in the most important match of the round, River Plate defeated Independiente 3-0 with goals from Ramon Diaz, Uruguayan striker Ruben Da Silva and Medina Bello.

Meanwhile, Boca Juniors, with a star studded squad, drew 0-0 with Talleres and another newly promoted, Lanus, thrashed Mandiyu 5-1 away.

Other results: Gimnasia 2 Rosario Central 1; Newell's Old Boys 0 Estudiantes de La Plata 3; Racing 1 Argentinos Juniors 0 Velez Sarsfield 1 Belgrano 1 and Platense 0 San Lorenzo 0 ... For the second round of the Conmebol Cup, Deportivo Espanol of Argentina scored an important 0-0 draw, away, against Olimpia of Paraguay.

The Paraguayans, coached by Argentine ex-international Roberto Perfumo, and with such stars in their line-up as Raul Amarilla, Julio Cesar Romero and Argentine international goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea couldn't break the visitors' defensive system and were severely criticised by the local press for their poor showing.

The second leg will be played tomorrow in Buenos Aires.

The influential Argentine sport magazine "El Grafico" carried out a poll among 290 First Division players in the country to find out who are their current best representatives.

The result was the following:

* Best Argentine player: Claudio Caniggia (Roma, Italy)

* Best player last season in the local competition: Ramon Diaz (River Plate).

* Best foreign player: Ruben Paz (Racing Club).

* Best goalkeeper: Luis Islas (Independiente).

* Best defender: Oscar Ruggeri (Ancona, Italy).

* Best defending midfielder: Jose Luis Villarreal (Boca Juniors).

* Best attacking midfielder: Gerardo Martino (Newell's Old Boys).

* Best striker: Ramon Diaz (River Plate).

* Best Argentine coach of all time: Carlos Bilardo.

* Best coach working in the country: Marcelo Bielsa (ex-Newell's Old Boys).

* Best referee: Juan Carlos Loustau.

* Symbol of today's Argentine soccer: Oscar Ruggeri.



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

WE'VE GOT
THE BIG
STORIES



YOU'VE

JAN MOLBY spells out telly Dane-ger facing Arsenal's new star

JAN MOLBY looks at fellow Dane John Jensen and says: "He must wonder what he's dropped into."

Too true. Not long ago, Arsenal were touted 2-1 favourites to be the first Premier League champions, helped by George Graham's £1.2m summer snatch of the European Championship hero.

Then, Jensen and his stunned new mates faced Liverpool in last month's BSkyB live belter knowing the bookies had insultingly halved the Gunners' relegation odds after just three hours of the new season.

Two matches. Two defeats by unsung Norwich and untried Blackburn.

Fresh questions being asked about keeper David Seaman after five goals conceded. That was the dismal record.

Suddenly, the Platinum club members look more suited to the Premier's plastic section.

Liverpool's giant Danish delight Jan Molby is still short of fitness after the calf injury that wrecked his pre-season.

GIANT

And, it was just as well for

Jensen and Co that Jan was not at peak fitness for last week's clash.

Jensen may be a hero in Denmark, but he's an English type midfielder - the kind of scuffer you expect Graham Taylor to use, rather than Denmark.

And Molby, the touch artist, is still smarting after his amazing European Championship snub.

"I would have given my right arm, to have been part of that triumph in Sweden," Molby says.

"They took home £50,000 a man but that isn't the reason. I just wanted to be involved in an occasion like that."

The only Molby who took home a medal after the underdogs' triumph was cousin Johnny, whose reward was a big-money move to

Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Jan hasn't played for Denmark since winning his 34th cap 18 months ago.

Then, a 2-0 home defeat by Yugoslavia left him fuming.

It should have been the end of Denmark's European Championship qualifying hopes.

It would have been, but for Yugoslavia's war-torn turmoil and removal from the championship.

New boss Richard Moller Nielsen didn't like it when Jan and fellow superstar Michael Laudrup questioned his tactics.

But Jan says: "I have never said I didn't want to play for my country. I wanted to be part of it. All I did say was that I didn't think I would play again

while Nielsen was manager.

"That didn't stop me hoping. And I was very disappointed when I wasn't named in a squad of 20. My form had been pretty good."

That's an understatement. There was no greater exhibition of the player's art in Sweden than Molby's in Liverpool's FA Cup Final victory over Sunderland.

But that wasn't good enough for Denmark's stubborn boss.

Jan watched all but the win over France on TV back at the family home in Kolding.

He was just as disbelieving as the rest over the unfolding of a fairytale fit for the land of Hans Christian Andersen.

"To be honest," he says, "I didn't think we'd get more than a point from our group.



JOHN JENSEN (7) AGAINST GERMANY

MEANWHILE DOWN AMONG SOCCER'S DEAD MEN ...

'I got more in my first wage packet 30 years ago than I've earned being Maidstone manager for the last four months' - CLIVE WALKER

CLIVE WALKER'S first wage packet when he joined Leicester City as a young apprentice 30 years ago was £9.

Hardly a fortune, but still £9 more than he was earned during the past four months as manager of Maidstone United - the latest club to go out of business.

It's the other end of the soccer spectrum from Anfield, where wealthy Liverpool and Arsenal met last week in front of a capacity crowd and the BSkyB cameras. While that game was being played it's not the roar of the crowd that Clive wants to hear. Just a ring on the telephone offering him a job.

Nobody at Maidstone has been paid since April. Walker says: "I've been living on my savings while I hope for a miracle."

DIFFICULT

"It may sound crazy, but I just couldn't believe it was happening. That's why I turned up every day. I'm fortunate that my wife Joy has a modest job and both my daughters are grown up. So I've managed to get by until now."

"When you've spent all your working life in football it's difficult to think of earning a living any other way. And at 48, I'm not likely to be snapped up for a

plum business post."

Clive - not to be confused with the former Chelsea winger now at Brighton - was a left-back with Leicester, Northampton, Mansfield and Chelmsford. Since he hung up his boots he's had two spells as Northampton manager and coached at every level.

"I joined Maidstone 18 months ago, and when I took over as boss in January I know it would be a struggle with the club in the lower reaches of the old Fourth Division," he admits.

"But in this game you are always an optimist. I thought I could turn the club round on the field and go on to better things. Now I've

learned miracles are in short supply.

"It was worth a go and I've no regrets. It's the players who haven't been fixed up I worry about. Especially those with young families and no money coming in - though no fault of their own."

"We retained a dozen, and half of them have gone on free transfers to Burnley, Colchester, Gillingham and Port Vale. The remaining six are still waiting."

"What can they do? It's heart-breaking to train and not play. They are short of match fitness and anyway, who can check on them?"

"Sadly, I don't think we

will be the last club to go to the wall. Plenty of others are existing on a hand-to-mouth basis and frightened they will go the same way as Aldershot and ourselves."

The truth is Maidstone were better off in the Vauxhall Conference. When they moved up in the soccer world three years ago and lost their ground it meant playing home games 23 miles away at Dartford.

"It was scarcely an incentive for the fans, yet our small core of supporters were incredibly loyal," says Clive. "We always took two or three buses to distant away games. The team went by train - second class, of course."

"We still could have survived if Maidstone Council had approved the building of a new ground. When it turned the project down it was the beginning of the end."

"To be honest we only scraped through last season by selling players. The last time everybody at Maidstone got paid was in March when we sold midfielder Robert Painter to Burnley for £25,000 on deadline day."

IRONIC

"He's only 21 and worth far more - we'd paid Chester £35,000 to sign him the previous summer. I'm

sure Burnley will eventually sell him for a small fortune. After all, look how much David Platt and Geoff Thomson are worth today, and it's so long ago they were playing for Crewe."

Walker can see the ironic side. Maidstone finished five places off the bottom of the Fourth Division last season because Aldershot, who'd beaten them twice, went out of business and all their results were expunged from the record.

And he hopes he'll be as lucky as Aldershot manager Ian McDonald, who was rescued from the dole queue by Millwall and appointed youth team boss after the spotlight was put on him.

Australia's best coverage of the British soccer scene

KOPPED IT JENSEN!

I would give my
right arm for
John's Euro glory

And when we got beaten by Sweden, I thought I'd be right."

CHANTS

When world champions Germany couldn't tame the Danes in the final, Jan joined the huge street celebration and suffered the ultimate insult.

"I was driving with some friends in a car which had English number plates," he said.

"There were about 40,000 in the streets. People were hanging out of windows. We crawled along and when the fans caught sight of the number plate, they came to the obvious conclusion and let me know all about it.

"I got the message with words and gestures!"

The chants were the kind that ended with "off". But when he was recognised, he was told: "We'd have won by more if you'd been there, Jan!"

Meanwhile, he has words of hope for Jansen and Arsenal.

"He must wonder what is going on, but it's early days for Arsenal. He's made a good move. And once he gets used to the pace and pattern, he'll do well.

"It isn't as if Arsenal have bought him as a Messiah, which would have brought on extra pressure.

"And he hasn't had it easy in his career. A big money move to Hamburg didn't work out.

"And he had plenty of critics before going to Sweden."

He warns: "What he must

do is learn the English way of joining in and not think he's finished when training's over. That English togetherness is a strength. Hurt one and you hurt the lot.

"I love the English way. So do Peter Schmeichel and Jesper Olsen.

"But John Sivebaek could never settle at Manchester United. After training, he wanted to go home and rest. You can't do that here. You've got to mix in."

If Jensen matches Molby's value, Arsenal will have plenty to celebrate. Last Friday was the eighth anniversary of Jan's £225,000 arrival from Ajax.

There's plenty of magic left in the 29-year-old. Maybe even Richard Moller Nielsen will recognise it again ...



THE CHAMPION DANES

PLAYER CHARGED FOR FAKING INJURY

Tottenham striker Gordon Durie was charged with misconduct by the English Football Association for allegedly faking injury - the first case of its kind in professional soccer.

The charge is based on referee Dermot Gallagher's report that Scotland forward Durie tried to get Coventry's Andy Pearce sent off during their premier League match last Wednesday by pretending that Pearce had head-butted him.

The FA has studied the report and have decided that there is a case to answer. Durie has 14 days to reply and is certain to request a personal hearing.

If found guilty, Durie faces the probability of a long suspension and a massive fine.

FA spokesman David Bloomfield said: "The charge is being brought on the referee's official report of the incident.

The allegation that the player feigned injury is the first case of that nature we have dealt with."

FALL GUY SEAMAN

DAVID SEAMAN is under fire again after being beaten five times by Norwich and Blackburn.

The £1.3m 'keeper never seems to have got over being Paul Gascoigne's fall guy at Wembley two seasons ago.

Seaman had conceded just four goals in the 13 games going into Wembley's first FA Cup semi-final and Arsenal looked odds-on for another League and Cup double.

But when Gazza exploded a free kick past him from 25 yards, it seemed to wreck the nerves of the safest 'keeper in the land.

Gary Lineker put two more past him in the 3-1 shocker and he has never seemed quite the same since.

That season, Seaman let in only 18 goals as Arsenal took their 10th title. But 46 went past him in the last campaign when Gunners finished fourth.

His problems spilled over into the England arena. The 10-capped Seaman's challenge to Chris Woods slipped away after suspect performances.



GARY LINEKER

PHYSIOTHERAPIST CHARGED WITH MANHANDLING LINESMAN

An English physiotherapist was charged with misconduct after allegedly "manhandling" a linesman at a league match.

Middlesbrough's Mark Nile was charged by the Football Association after the linesman reported him for an incident at the end of the club's 2-1 defeat by Coventry on the opening day of the Premier League season this month.

The club's chief executive Keith Lamb was surprised Nile had been charged. "We hope we can deal with the matter through correspondence," he said.

SOCCER

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NEWS FROM THE UK

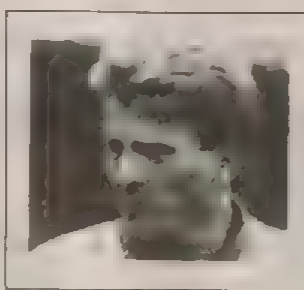
The League Cup draws

ARSENAL MANAGER George Graham and Aston Villa boss Ron Atkinson will return to old haunts of their distinguished managerial and playing careers in the second round of the English League Cup.

Villa travels to Oxford, where Atkinson was an all-action wing-half, in the first leg on September 23, while Arsenal visits Millwall, which gave Graham his first chance in management 10 years ago, in the second leg two weeks later.

There is also a dream return to White Hart Lane next month for Phil Holder, the former Tottenham midfielder who steered Brentford to the old Third Division championship last season.

Holder Manchester United meets Second Division Brighton - a clash sure to inspire memories of



GORDON STRACHAN

the 1983 meeting in the FA Cup final, when United won 4-0 after a 2-2 draw - while League champions Leeds faces a repeat of last season's tie with Third Division Scunthorpe.

There are also a few local derbies in the round in which the Premier League clubs are seeded, Newcastle's pairing with Middlesbrough probably the highlight.

Scottish champion Glasgow

Rangers looks certain to reach the Skol Cup final for the sixth time in seven years following the semi-final draw.

The favourite is paired with underdog St Johnstone, which has appeared in one only Skol Cup final, at Hampden Park on September 22. Celtic and Aberdeen clash there the following night.

Rangers captain Richard Gough, who scored the winning goal when his club last picked up the trophy against Celtic in 1990, said: "We've won it four times in recent seasons and are desperate to regain it."

"However, we know what can happen in semi-finals. Hibs beat us 1-0 at Hampden last year and deserved to do so."

"I remember facing St Johnstone in the semi-finals of the Scottish Cup a few seasons ago. They gave us a nasty shock by

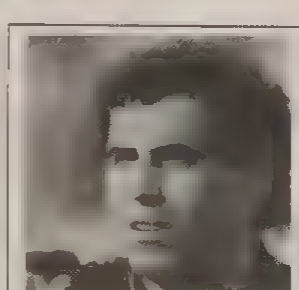
drawing 0-0 before we won the replay 4-0."

The tie will pit St Johnstone captain John McClelland against the club with whom he enjoyed Skol Cup success in 1983 and 1984, and he is relishing the prospect.

"We may be the underdogs, but Rangers will not find us an easy option," warned the 36-year-old Northern Ireland international.

Celtic, remarkably, has not won the trophy for 10 years, losing all three recent finals to Rangers.

Aberdeen, the winner three years ago, has been in three of the past five finals.



PETER SHILTON

Man City v Bristol Rov
Liverpool v Chesterfield
Carlisle v Norwich
Tottenham v Brentford
Watford v Reading
Torquay v Swindon
Blackpool v Portsmouth
Sheffield Wed v Hartlepool
Arsenal v Millwall
Leeds v Scunthorpe
QPR v Grimsby
Walsall v Chelsea
Leicester v Peterborough

Gillingham or Northampton
v Southampton
Southend v Derby
Rotherham v Everton
Exeter v Oldham
Crystal Palace v Lincoln
Bolton v Wimbledon
Stockport v Nottingham
Forest

Wigan v Ipswich
Oxford v Aston Villa
Coventry v Scarborough
Bristol City v Sheffield Utd
Newcastle v Middlesbrough
Luton v Plymouth

First legs to be played during week commencing September 21, second legs during week commencing October 5.

Scottish League Cup semi-finals:

St Johnstone v Rangers (on Sept 22)
Celtic v Aberdeen (on Sept 23).

ALL THE RESULTS FROM BRITAIN

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal	2	Sheffield Wed	1
Chelsea	1	Queens Pk R.	0
Coventry	0	Blackburn	2
Crystal Pal.	1	Norwich	2
Everton	0	Wimbledon	0
Leeds	2	Liverpool	2
Manchester C	3	Oldham	3
Nottingham F	0	Manchester U	2
Sheffield Utd	0	Aston Villa	2
Southampton	2	Middlesbrough	1
Ipswich	1	Tottenham	1

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Barnsley	0	Millwall	0
Brentford	2	Southend	1
Bristol City	0	Sunderland	0
Charlton	0	Luton	0
Leicester	1	Portsmouth	0
Newcastle	2	West Ham	0
Oxford	0	Whampton	0
Peterborough	1	Notts County	3
Swindon	4	Cambridge U	1
Watford	0	Derby	0

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Bolton	2	Reading	1
Bradford	1	Brighton	1
Burnley	1	Rotherham	1
Exeter	2	Stoke	2
Hartlepool	1	Huddersfield	0
Leyton Orient	1	Blackpool	0
Mansfield	2	Fulham	3
Port Vale	0	Stockport	0
Preston	4	Chester	3
W Bromwich	2	Bournemouth	1
Wigan	2	Swansea	3

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Cardiff	2	Halifax	1
Carlisle	2	Lincoln	0
Chesterfield	2	Bury	1
Colchester	0	Darlington	3
Doncaster	2	Torquay	3
Gillingham	1	Barnet	1
Hereford	1	Walsall	3
Rochdale	3	Scarborough	0
Scunthorpe	1	Shrewsbury	1
York	4	Wrexham	0
Birmingham	2	Grimsby	1

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Airdrie	1	Celtic	1
Dundee Utd	2	Falkirk	0
Hearts	1	Motherwell	0
Partick	6	Dundee	3
Rangers	3	Aberdeen	1
St Johnstone	1	Hibernian	1

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Dumbarton	1	Raith	2
Dunfermline	1	Clydebank	3
Hamilton	1	Ayr	1
Kilmarnock	1	Meadowbank	0
Morton	1	Cowdenbeath	0
St Mirren	0	Stirling	0

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

Aloa	1	Clyde	5
Arbroath	2	Queen's Park	1
Brechin	2	Albion	0
East Fife	0	Forfar	3
East Stirling	1	Queen of Sth	2
Montrose	1	Berwick	3
Sthousemuir	1	Stranraer	2

NORTHERN IRELAND GOLD CUP

Distillery	2	Linfield	1
Glenavon	3	Glentoran	2
Newry	1	Cliftonville	1
Omagh Town	1	Portadown	3

ALL YOUR TABLES FROM ENGLAND

ENGLISH PREMIER DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Queens Park Rangers	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Norwich	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Everton	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Arsenal	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Coventry	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Leeds	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Manchester United	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Middlesbrough	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Sheffield Wednesday	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Aston Villa	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Ipswich	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Oldham	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Chelsea	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Manchester City	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Liverpool	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Southampton	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Crystal Palace	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Sheffield United	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Nottingham Forest	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Wimbledon	10	3	1	6	10	10	10
Tottenham	10	3	1	6	10	10	10

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Charlton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Swindon	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Leicester	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Newcastle	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Wolverhampton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Watford	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Birmingham	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Tranmere	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Peterborough	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Bristol City	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Notts County	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Millwall	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Portsmouth	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Oxford	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Sunderland	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Bristol Rovers	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Grimsby	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Brentford	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
West Ham	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Derby	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Luton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Barnsley	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Southend	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Cambridge United	10	4	1	5	11	11	11

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
West Bromwich	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Fulham	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Leyton Orient	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Hull	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Stockport	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Swansea	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Bolton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Rotherham	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Hartlepool	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Preston	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Brighton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Bournemouth	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Stoke	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Bradford	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Plymouth	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Burnley	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Blackpool	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Reading	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Port Vale	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Chester	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Exeter	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Mansfield	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Wigan	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Huddersfield	10	4	1	5	11	11	11

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
York	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Barnet	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Cardiff	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Walsall	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Crewe	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Bury	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Halifax	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Darlington	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Shrewsbury	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Hereford	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Scarborough	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Rochdale	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Carlisle	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Northampton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Torquay	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Chesham	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Colchester	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Scunthorpe	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Gillingham	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Doncaster	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Lincoln	10	4	1	5	11	11	11

...AND NOW THEY STAND IN SCOTLAND

SCOTTISH PREMIER DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundee United	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Rangers	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Hearts	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Celtic	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Aberdeen	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Partick	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
St Johnstone	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Hibernian	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Motherwell	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Dundee	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Airdrieonians	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Falkirk	10	4	1	5	11	11	11

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Raith	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Morton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Dunfermline	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Kilmarnock	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
St Mirren	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Marine	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Hamilton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Ayr	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Clydebank	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Dumbarton	10	4	1	5	11	11	11
Cowdenbeath	10	4	1	5	11	11	11

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

For	P	W	D	L	F	A
Barnack	4	4	1	0	1	4
Cuddes	4	4	1	0	1	4
S. S. S.	4	4	1	0	1	4
Arleburgh	4	4	1	0	1	4
Alwton	4	4	1	0	1	4
East Eile	4	4	1	0	1	4
Greenwick	4	4	1	0	1	4
Alwton	4	4	1	0	1	4
Queen of South	4	4	1	0	1	4
East Stirling	4	4	1	0	1	4
Muirhouse	4	4	1	0	1	4
Queen of Park	4	4	1	0	1	4
Stenhousemuir	4	4	1	0	1	4

PLAYBOY PAT LEARNS THE HARD WAY....

PAT MCGINLAY knows what it's like to come back from oblivion.

The Hibs midfielder, still recovering from his side's stunning Skol Cup defeat by Kilmarnock two weeks ago, is lucky to even have a place in top-flight soccer.

Five years ago he was on the point of quitting the game to work as a motor mechanic after being freed by Blackpool.

Now, at 25, he cheerily admits the seaside club were quite right to show him the door.

"For the two seasons I was

there I enjoyed the disco life and, as far as my football career went they were my wasted years," says Pat.

"There's plenty of night life in Blackpool and I certainly knew my way around the clubs.

"I don't think I did myself any justice with my attitude down there.

HAPPILY

"I thought it was **playtime and I didn't prepare myself properly.**

"You couldn't blame a 17-

year-old living in digs away from home for wanting to go out and enjoy himself.

"The trouble was that while the rest of the boys were bursting to get into the first team, I was quite happy playing away in the reserves.

"I thought I was a better player than I was, although there are millions of other players who think that way."

McGinlay admires one man who made the most of his time at Blackpool - Paul Stewart.

The tough midfielder moved on to Spurs and has just switched back north to join Liverpool for £1.5 million.

"But Paul was able to go home to his family, who lived in nearby, Lytham, every night," recalls Pat.

The Scot knew his days were numbered at Blackpool not long after scoring his first goal for the club.

"I thought it was my big chance but the next week I was back on the subs' bench," he says.

"That was a sickener.

"For the rest of the season I was in the squad as a sub and playing reasonably well. Then I was freed.

"I don't think the manager Sam Ellis rated me. Certainly I didn't see eye to eye with him.

"But, looking back, maybe his decision was right."

Pat turned down an offer

to go to Belgium and began to doubt whether he had a future in the game.

"After getting the free I felt a bit sick and I thought football isn't for me and I seriously had thoughts of giving it up," he admits.

"I was 19 and most boys have established themselves by that age.

"But I got a phone call from Hibs coach Peter Cormack inviting me up and the visit to Easter Road changed all that.

"I knew I was on my last chance and I grasped it. "What had happened at Blackpool was the kick up the backside I needed.

KEEN

"At Hibs I started working hard and learning from other players.

"One of them was George McCluskey who was a big idol from my days as a Celtic fan.

"George popped up in my career again last month, - when he scored one of those Killie goals that knocked us out of the Skol Cup!"

Whatever else the young McGinlay may have lacked he was never short of confidence.

"After my first season at Hibs I was so impatient to see first team action that I went to Alex Miller and pleaded for a game," he says.

"He sent me away telling

me I wasn't ready but gradually I began to get on the bench."

"I suppose it might sound a bit brass-necked, asking for a game like that, but I think the boss likes players who show they are keen to get on."

MISERY

McGinlay finally began to establish himself as a first-team regular early in 1990 and played a major part in Hibs' Skol Cup triumph last season.

But the most vivid memory of that glory run comes from the semi-final triumph over Rangers.

He had to dodge Ibrox fans as he WALKED home from their semi-final win with his wife Margaret.

"We stay close to Hampden and there were still a lot of disappointed Rangers fans milling around," he explains.

"I kept my face well hidden in case they recognised me as one of the people responsible for their misery."

Despite the Killie shock, the Hibs hero insists his club can still do well this season.

McGinlay, spied on by two top English clubs at Rugby Park, warns: "Don't count us out for the rest of the season because we've had one bad result.

Disco kid McGinlay freed by Blackpool Now he is dancing to the top with Hibs

"Lots of people forecast that our Skol Cup win would be a flash in the pan and they must be gloating now.

"But everyone at Easter Road believes there are more good days ahead."

SELFISH

McGinlay, who scored 12 goals last season, was linked with Celtic before their recent signing spree and Aston Villa have also shown interest.

"Transfer talk has never bothered me and right now my first concern is to help Hibs back on the winning trial," he says.

"Our new strike force of Keith Wright and Darren Jackson will be a formidable

partnership once they settle in.

"And Gareth Evans works like a beaver for the team.

"But he needs to be selfish going for goals because that's the hallmark of all great strikers."

Hibs' next big challenge is the UEFA clash against Anderlecht, when they'll be aiming for revenge for their second round exit against another Belgian side, Liege, three years ago.

McGinlay has one memory of those games - a little known Liege player who was brought over to play a trial for the Easter Road reserves against Rangers.

That was Ronnie Rosenthal, now turning it on for Graeme Souness at Liverpool!



RONNIE ROSENTHAL

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SFA REFUSE TO RECOGNISE THE NEW SUPER LEAGUE

Scotland's authorities are refusing to recognise the newly-formed Scottish Super League, a breakaway group of clubs planning to start their competition in two years.

A statement from Scottish Football Association chief executive Jim Farry described the Super League - initiated by Glasgow Rangers and Hearts - as an "unauthorised body".

Rangers, Celtic, Aberdeen, Hearts and Dundee United were the original Scottish premier

division teams who unveiled plans for a Super League in June. Since then they have been joined by St Johnstone, Hibernian and Motherwell.

The SFA are emphatic that the Super League is in breach of the Association's Article 73, which governs the formation of any set-up in Scotland.

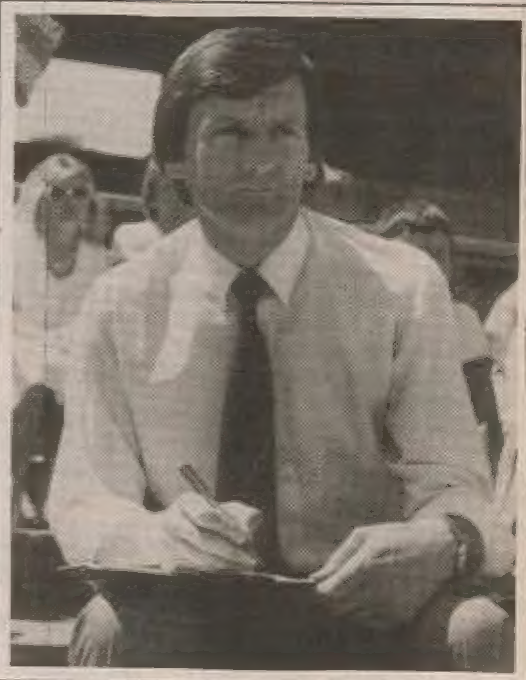
That states: "Associations, leagues or other combinations of clubs, players or officials shall not be formed without the consent of this Association (the SFA) or an affiliated national association."

Without SFA sanction, the

Super League's chances of starting their competition are diminished.

The SFA, responding to correspondence from Hearts chairman Wallace Mercer on behalf of "a group of member clubs", said in their statement: "The Executive Committee has replied that the combination of clubs referred to as the Super League is an unauthorised body.

"As such, the SFA is not in a position to have a dialogue of any matter with a body not a recognised footballing body in terms of Article 73."



ANDY ROXBURGH

DYNAMITE DURRANT

RANGERS 3 ABERDEEN 1

RANGERS did a complete demolition job on their title rivals with Ian Durrant in charge of the Ibrox wrecking crew.

The midfield ace launched them into their determined second-half fightback with a superbly-struck equalising goal, his first strike against the Dons since his horrendous injury playing them four years ago.

And as Aberdeen's challenge crumbled even before £550,000 striker Duncan Shearer was sent off in the 73rd minute, dazzling Durrant was their tormentor in chief.

Little wonder Dons boss Willie Miller moaned: "That was suicide."

"It's no good coming here to sit back and give them all the room in the world. But that's what we did in the second-half."

Durrant, Ally McCoist - who could have easily

celebrated a hat-trick - and Alexei Mikhailichenko were the goal heroes who gave Rangers the finest 45 minutes manager Walter Smith reckons he's seen for some time.

"I don't think anyone could begrudge us our victory," beamed Smith.

"It's been a difficult week for us with some players injured and less match fit than we'd have liked but what a battling performance everyone put up."

DELIGHTED

And the Gers supremo was delighted that Durrant, voted man of the match, starred in their win.

The brilliant ballplayer not only netted Rangers' first goal but sent McCoist through for the second to put them on their winning way.

It was a super show from the talented 25-year-old and fans are claiming that he is now better than he was before his injury.

"I'm guarded in what I say

and I find it difficult to remember exactly how well he played in terms of performances," Smith added.

"But if he plays as well as he did in the second half I'll be happy."

"His performance was terrific."

Aberdeen blew it after setting a blistering pace in the opening session with a 28th minute goal from Roy Aitken, no less.

The former Celt blasted the ball in after Richard Gough's header, in trying to clear Mixu Paatelainen's cross, dropped at his feet.

The Dons nearly got off to an earlier start.

Big Brian Irvine looked unbelievably at Rangers' goal after missing an easy header, moments after Andy Gorm had pushed a rasping shot from Eoin Jess round the post.

Aberdeen paid for those misses after the break and it was John Brown's tenacity in forcing a way through the defence that earned the equaliser.

Dave Robertson took over, found Mikhailichenko in a great move and finally it was left to Durrant to drill in the vital goal.

McCoist, who missed a sitter soon after, and was to blast an equally easy effort over the bar again before the end, was on form for Rangers' second in the 62nd minute.

Durrant sent the Scotland star away on a breathtaking solo burst and he gave Theo Snelders no chance with his finishing shot.

MISERY

Mikhailichenko, who started the game partnering McCoist in place of the injured Mark Hateley, rounded off Aberdeen's misery three minutes from time.

Dave McPherson swept the ball to him and magic Miko slammed it on the volley past Snelders.

Shearer's disappearance for his early bath hardly made any difference to the

Ian leads Gers wrecking crew as Dons crash

shattered Dons.

But they came nearest to scoring soon after he was sent off, with Andy Gorm and John Brown having to be goalline heroes for Rangers.

Ref Brian McGinlay was in danger of writer's cramp. As well as redcarding the previously booked Shearer and banishing Rangers assistant manager Archie Knox to the stand, seven others were booked.

ABSW BEST: Durrant.

TABLE TOPPERS

	P	W	D	F	A	Pts
Dund U	6	4	1	7	4	9
Rangers	6	3	2	10	5	8
Hearts	6	3	2	7	3	8
Celtic	6	2	4	7	4	8
Aberdeen	6	3	1	9	7	7
Partick	6	2	2	11	9	6

DUNC'S A TOPPER

DUNDEE UTD 2 FALKIRK 0

BIG Duncan Ferguson's double strike pushed the Tangerines to the top of the Premier League.

Springing back from the disappointment of their midweek Skol Cup defeat, United won without really turning on the style.

And boss Jim McLean admitted: "We did not maintain the standard we have shown in earlier games, but the result was exactly what I wanted."

Falkirk's Jim Jefferies was disappointed with the result - but not the display of his side.

He said: "I was critical of my side for their performance against Aberdeen in the cup in midweek, but not on this occasion."

"I felt that they contributed as much to the game as United."

After an opening half in which the visitors produced several scoring opportunities without cashing in they suffered for it immediately on the resumption.

Ferguson rose to a John O'Neil cross from the left to float the perfect header in at the post past Gordon McDougall.

And big Duncan slid in the clincher eight minutes from time.

Meanwhile, Falkirk expect a decision from Watford centre-half Joe McLaughlin after agreeing a £70,000 fee.

ABSW BEST: Ferguson.

Brady blasts Diamonds

AIRDRIE 1 CELTIC 1

FURIOUS Celtic boss Liam Brady launched a scathing attack on Airdrie after seeing his side held to a draw.

The tough Broomfielders had four players booked and sub Sammy Conn sent off - but a second-half goal from Jimmy Boyle cancelled out Andy Payton's opener for Celtic.

Airdrie were fined £5,000 by the SFA in July for their disciplinary record last season - but they have now had 13 players booked and two sent off in their last three games.

The home side, watched by spies from Cup-Winners' Cup opponents Sparta Prague, also had assistant boss John McVeigh warned by ref Joe Timmons for a second-half outburst from the bench.

PROBLEM

And later Celts boss Brady said: "It's difficult for teams like us when we come here because the onus is on us to play."

"Airdrie don't hide what they're about. They're intent on stopping teams playing."

"Their bench was jumping up and down at time-up - after a 1-1 draw on their own ground. I think that tells its own story."

Sparta Prague coach Dusan

Uhrin added: "The physical side of Airdrie's play will be a problem for us, but we will prepare our players well."

"I was surprised that Airdrie were the same quality as Celtic - and they could have won the game in the last minute."

That was a reference to a scramble when the Celtic defence was forced into a great double save from hard-working midfielder Evan Balfour.

First Gordon Marshall touched over a scorching drive from fireman Balfour with just two minutes left.

And from the resultant corner, Balfour's header was cleared off the line by Wdowczyk.

In the subsequent scramble, sub Conn saw his shot smothered by the Celtic defence - and his protests that Balfour's header had crossed the line led to a red card from ref Timmons.

Airdrie boss Alex MacDonald said: "I'm delighted with the way we went about our business."

"If we want to survive in the Premier League, that's how we'll have to play. Evan Balfour was unlucky at the end-up and I thought we had more second-half chances."

Celts found it tough against the Broomfield battlers - despite getting a dream start from new boy Andy Payton.

He ran on to an inch-perfect 50-yard Dariusz Wdowczyk pass and coolly clipped the ball past John Martin for his third goal in five games.

But Celts - giving their new green-and-black reserve strip a debut outing - looked off-colour in the face of Airdrie's aggression.

Tempers flared towards the end of the first-half and Walter Kidd, Alan Lawrence and Sandy Stewart of the home side as well as birthday boy Peter Grant - 27 - of Celtic.

CLASH

Kidd - who'd been having a running feud with Gerry Creaney - lasted only four minutes into the second-half before being replaced after a clash of heads with team-mate Gus Caesar.

He had three stitches inserted in a burst blood vessel, but Airdrie made light of the re-shuffle and equalised when Boyle fired home Owen Coyle's low cross.

That turned the match round and Celtic's defence - with Mike Galloway outstanding - had to be at their best to prevent Airdrie notching their first league win over Celtic in 17 years.

There were second-half bookings for scorer Payton and Airdrie's Balfour.

ABSW BEST: Galloway.

BERRY HAPPY RETURN DAY FOR HEARTS' SAVIOUR NEIL

HEARTS 1 MOTHERWELL 0

NEIL BERRY celebrated his first full game for more than a year with a sparkling winner.

But it was a long struggle for the Tynes castle men who have failed to get into top gear this season - yet have eight points in the bag.

Joe Jordan conceded: "We were erratic and guilty of over elaboration at times but we made enough chances to win."

And big Joe couldn't hide his delight for fit again Berry: "It was a sweet strike and Neil can be delighted with his comeback."

Motherwell struck the woodwork twice and were unlucky not to get a point.

"Well boss Tommy McLean pointed out: "We were superior in every department but just couldn't finish."

"And that's the third time this season we've lost a goal from outside the box without a challenge being offered."

Hearts were caught cold when Brian Martin ran on to a Phil O'Donnell pass and hit the bar with a lob that rebounded into the arms of Henry Smith.

Berry notched up Hearts' winner in 40 minutes when he hit a sizzling 18-yarder past Billy Thomson.

Motherwell threw their big Dutchman, Elroy Kromheer, up front in a desperate bid to grab a point.

And it almost worked when his late header hit a post.

ABSW BEST: Berry.

TOMMY'S TURN ROUND

ST JOHNSTONE 1 HIBS 1

TOMMY McINTYRE was saint and sinner at McDiarmid Park, firing Hibs into the lead and then getting an early bath.

The big defender was sent packing for hauling down former Easter Road star Paul Wright as he raced past keeper John Burridge.

And to pile on the agony Wright stepped up to blast the ball home from the penalty spot and salvage a point for the Saints. Afterwards Hibs boss Alex Miller blasted his defence for the goal.

He said: "I blame the central defence and the goalkeeper, it was poor defensive play."

"The defenders allowed a long ball from inside Saints half to go over their heads and the goalkeeper should have been on the edge of his box, not his goal-line."

Hibs could have wrapped up the points despite being short handed when Keith Wright shot weakly wide in the final minutes with only Andy Rhodes to beat.

ABSW BEST: Darren Jackson (Hibs).



UNITED ACE MARK HUGHES

SPARKY'S FOREST FIRE

NOTTM FOREST 0
MAN UTD 2

MARK HUGHES and Ryan Giggs gave Brian Clough another day of Dai's saster at the City ground.

The two princes of Wales fired a goal apiece that heaped more misery on Cloughie's misfiring Forest.

Now fumbling Forest, after conceding nine goals in their last three games, must try to repair for the coming Sky TV clash at Norwich.

And this defeat could have been even worse if Hughes, after firing United ahead in the first half, had been more alert to Dion Dublin's free ball.

Sparky looked odds on to round keeper Mark Crossley - but he stopped playing mistakenly thinking an offside decision had been given.

By then, however, Alex Ferguson's rapidly improving side had flawed Forest

with a 49th minute second goal.

Substitute Clayton Blackmore, on for ankle injury victim Mike Phelan, curled a cross to the far post, where Giggs nodded home.

Forest, after selling £2.1 million striker Teddy Sheringham to Spurs on Friday, relied on 32-year-old Gary Bannister.

His brilliant run down the left and pinpoint cross should have been tucked away by Gary Crosby to reduce the deficit.

But Bannister was guilty of a bad miss too, firing over Ian Wran's cross from just six yards.

Hughes gave United the lead after 16 minutes when Paul Ince's shot rebounded off Crossley and Hughes thundered home from the edge of the box, just inside the post.

ABSW BEST: Hughes.

LENNIE'S HEAD BANGER

SOUTHAMPTON 2
MIDDLESBROUGH 1

LENNIE LAWRENCE'S Boro were brought down by two goals in the final ten minutes through Matt Le Tissier and Nicky Banger.

But Southampton grabbed their late victory only after

Howard's flops are Pole-axed

EVERTON 0
WIMBLEDON 0

LACKLUSTRE Everton looked anything but title material as they struggled in vain to break down Dons' dogged defence.

Joe Kinnear's men gave little away but should have been punished after 24 minutes when Peter Beardsley, on the verge of an England recall, carved a glorious opening for Robert Warzycha - only for the Pole to slam his shot against the bar.

Then Beardsley came close himself - his shot running cruelly across the face of the goal.

The arrival of substitute Mo Johnston, in place of the struggling Paul Rideout, spurred Everton on and John Ebbrell wasted two gilt-edged chances. The closest Howard Kendall's men came after the break was a corner by Peter Beagrie, on for the injured Mark Ward, which hit the post.

ABSW BEST: Ablett.

Paul Wilkinson had threatened an upset.

When Wilkinson smashed home Robbie Mustoe's cross in the 74th minute, it looked as though Boro would steal a match which Saints dominated for long spells.

It was Wilkinson's fourth goal of an impressive start in the Premier League - but it all went wrong for Lawrence's side after that.

Alan Kernaghan was judged guilty of handling a shot by Kerry Dixon wide in the penalty area in the 81st minute.

And Le Tissier, who had been impressive throughout, took the chance to become the architect of Southampton's victory. He stepped forward for the spot-kick and coolly planted the ball wide of Ian Ironside.

Four minutes later it was Le Tissier's corner which was

neatly rammed into goal by Southampton substitute Nicky Banger.

Boss Lawrence fumed: "We handed it to them on a plate and it was a collective team thing."

"We only played for 75 minutes and there were many people to blame as the lack of concentration spread."

He added: "We fell to two diabolical goals and their substitute was left totally unmarked to head in from seven yards out. What happened was unforgivable."

PRESSURE

Middlesbrough can have few complaints. With Le Tissier involved in just about everything Southampton should have been ahead well before Wilkinson jolted them into action.

Middlesbrough's rampant performance against Leeds a fortnight ago had exhausted their scoring abilities, it seemed.

The first half was certainly no fun for Boro.

When they weren't being caught offside they were surviving under pressure as Southampton created several clear-cut chances.

Dixon must have anticipated his first goal in Saints' colours but the former Chelsea player saw his left-foot shot saved well by the diving Ian Ironside.

Ironside, deputising for the injured Steve Pears, did himself proud again later in the ball when blocking Kevin Moore's downward header.

Wilkinson did have the ball in the net on the stroke of half-time but was ruled offside.

ABSW BEST: Le Tissier.



SOUTHAMPTON'S MATHEW LE TISSIER (RIGHT)

HIRST MADE TO SUFFER

ARSENAL 2
SHEFFIELD WED. 1

WEDNESDAY boss Trevor Francis pulled off star striker David Hirst as the Owls suffered their first defeat of the season.

It was an unhappy finale for Hirst, who lost his personal duel with Arsenal's Ian Wright as they bid to outshine each other as England strikers.

Wright inspired Arsenal goals by Ray Parlour and Paul Merson inside the opening half hour to assist the Gunners' Premier League recovery.

Hirst hit a magnificent goal which spoke volumes for both his courage and his deadliness in front of goal.

For he had received torrid treatment from Arsenal defenders Tony Adams and Steve Bould, who was one of six players booked in the first half.

Hirst, cautioned himself for bundling over Nigel Winterburn, was heavily fouled by Bould in the first half. His goal was an eloquent reply.

But he later became embroiled in a running battle with Arsenal defenders and must have had the ref toying with his red card.

ABSW BEST: Wright.

CHELSEA 1
QPR 0

A HIT and hope shot by veteran Mick Harford cost QPR the leadership of the Premier League and their unbeaten record.

It came in the 59th minute after Dennis Wise had a shot blocked and Harford tried a first-time effort from the area's edge which goalkeeper Jan Stejskal misjudged. Rangers have only themselves to blame. They lacked the killer pass and a lethal finishing touch.

The only time top scorer Les Ferdinand got the ball in the net was when he punched in a Sinton cross. But when two chances fell he made a mess of them both.

ABSW BEST: Harford.

It's Shear bliss for Kenny

COVENTRY 0
BLACKBURN 2

GOALS from £3m Alan Shearer and Mark Atkins blasted Blackburn to the top of the Premier table.

Coventry found themselves fully stretched right from the start as Kenny Dalglish's side forced four corners in the first three minutes.

Atkins wasted Rovers' first clear-cut opening by firing straight at Steve Ogrizovic - who then did well to smother a snap shot from Alan Wright.

Blackburn survived Coventry's efforts after the break and seized the initiative with two goals in nine minutes.

Shearer cleverly nutmegged Paul McGrath in the 70th minute before being tripped as he cut into the box.

Ref Ray Lewis had no hesitation pointing to the spot with Shearer picking himself up to send Ogrizovic the wrong way.

Coventry then compounded their demise with a glaring misunderstanding between Andy Pearce and Ogrizovic as Atkins' innocuous header was allowed to bounce in off the post.

ABSW BEST: Shearer.



KEN DALGLISH

KOP BOSS BUST-UP

Chairman Moore shocks Ipswich

LIVERPOOL chief David Moore was involved in amazing scenes after last week's 2-2 result at Ipswich.

The flamboyant chairman left Ipswich directors and their wives embarrassed with a vicious verbal attack on shocked Liverpool pressmen.

Ipswich had invited the writers into the boardroom and were staggered when their kind act led to the attack.

Even Moore's wife couldn't halt the tirade, which included a reference to press coverage of Lady Di.

ACCUSED

An Ipswich director pulled one shaken journalist away, saying: "Come away from that idiot."

He could not believe it when told the long-haired Moore was chairman of the FA Cup winners.

Moore accused the local media of trying to drive a wedge between him, boss Graham Souness and fans.

It's a symptom of growing paranoia at Anfield after Liverpool's worst start in 30 years.

One of Souness' briefs back in March, 1991 was to repair the PR damage left by Kenny Dalglish.

But relationships have worsened with all media men banned from the

Anfield dressing-room area on match days.

He has even barred Liverpool legend Tommy Smith from the boot room.

Now Smith says he wouldn't go back 'unless he left.'

That followed a written attack by the old Anfield idol, who's been pained by Liverpool's struggles.

Smith, whose honours include five Championship medals with Liverpool said: "He just rang up and said 'You'll have to take the consequence for that.'"

"I said what's that? And he said: 'You're barred from the boot room.'"

"I'm a bit disappointed but he's the boss."

"And at the end of the day he must stand or fall by his decisions."

The growing conflict between club and public has increased concern in the boardroom.

The scars have not healed which were left when Souness sold his heart-stopping tale to The Sun.

The sacking of reserve coach Phil Thompson also rocked Anfield.

And word is that Souness has until Christmas to show signs of making Liverpool look like a championship force.

Liverpool took a point from Saturday's 2-2 draw at Elland Road, but Souness still has a tough fight!



Gazza (left) takes a tumble — his successes have turned world football on its head.



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PAUL GASCOIGNE may not be fully fit to press England's World Cup campaign until early next year.

Gazza - England's major hope of a bright new future - will be named tonight for the friendly against Spain in Santander on September 9.

♦ He may watch, train, or even be given the psychological lift of a few minutes of international action.

But Gazza's appearance is bound to deepen a dilemma for England boss

Graham Taylor, who admitted: "We ought to realise Paul may not be fully match fit for another two or three months."

That period would cover England's first two World Cup qualifying ties against Norway in October and Turkey in November, both at Wembley.

♦ Taylor added: "Lazio can only play three foreigners in a squad of 16 and there is no reserve team football. Paul is one of four foreigners. So he would have to deliver the

goods as soon as he got in their side. That is asking a lot of someone who has been out of action for up to 16 months."

"Unless he's played enough for Lazio, he won't be match fit to play for us. Lazio will not risk upsetting their other foreign players, so Paul may find he is not getting sufficient matches."

HOPELESS

Taylor will be under enormous pressure to

restore the magic Gascoigne can provide to England's midfield against Norway.

♦ And Gazza's own bubbling desire to return will probably override any doubts Taylor harbours about his ultimate readiness.

For even a few moments of Gazza may be enough to breathe the new life into an England team savaged for the grim, hopeless manner of its European Championship exit.

Taylor's first job is to examine the mental make-up of the squad.

♦ Taylor added: "I'll not throw away two years work. A group of people will discover that I do have faith in them."

"What I said to them after Sweden still holds true. I have to be responsible for results. They must be responsible for their own performances."

"I have taken most of the flak and that is quite right. It will be interesting to see how the players will respond to the criticism of them."

"I don't want to see their confidence undermined by

the reaction to what happened in Sweden."

♦ Taylor looked beyond the criticism he has taken to identify the target that confronts him.

He added: "Next summer we will have a tour of North America and by that time will have played seven out of ten World Cup qualifying games."

"I want to be in a position where I can say then that we are favourites to qualify."

"And I believe that will be the case."